

### BRIEF



A security jawan guards as rehearsal for the Republic Parade 2023 is underway at the Kartavya Path during a cold and foggy morning, in New Delhi, Thursday.

### Flag off

**Varanasi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off 'Ganga Vilas Cruise' on January 13 and preparations for the programme have started, district authorities said on Thursday. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the world's longest cruise tour from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh on January 13," the Information and Public Relations Department of Uttar Pradesh said in a tweet in Hindi.

### CBI action

**New Delhi:** The CBI has booked HDIL promoters Rakesh Wadhawan and Sarang Wadhawan in a new bank fraud case involving an amount of Rs 140 crore pertaining to their subsidiary Gurusush Construction, officials said on Thursday. The fresh action was initiated on a complaint from the Union Bank of India against the businessmen who are embroiled in a Rs-4,300 crore Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank scam case, they said.

### Lock horn

**Kolkata:** The central teams' visit to West Bengal to look into complaints of irregularities in the allotment of houses under PMAY on Thursday sparked off a war of words between the TMC and BJP. The ruling TMC termed the visits by the central teams to Malda and East Midnapore districts as "political vendetta" by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

### Chill

**Bhopal:** The India Meteorological Department on Thursday issued an 'orange alert' for moderate to dense fog in six divisions and 15 districts in Madhya Pradesh. The IMD also said two districts in the state experienced cold wave during the day, while four districts witnessed 'severe cold' and 12 districts, including capital Bhopal and commercial hub Indore, seeing 'cold day'.

### Appoint

**New Delhi:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday appointed its councillor from Adarsh Nagar ward Mukesh Goel as the Leader of the House in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, party officials said. Earlier in the day, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena nominated BJP councillor Satya Sharma as the presiding officer for the first House meeting on January 6 to elect the mayor of the civic body.

**Weather**  
High 25 Low 14

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 17,992.15  
SENSEX 60,353.27

**BULLION**  
GOLD 55,316  
SILVER 68,178

### RELIEF TO ENCROACHERS

## SC stays HC order for removal of encroachments

■ From Railway land in Haldwani

New Delhi, Jan 05 (PTI)

In a relief to thousands of people facing imminent threat of demolition of their houses in winter, the Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court order for removal of encroachments from 29 acres of land claimed by the railways in Haldwani, terming it a "human issue" and saying 50,000 people cannot be uprooted overnight.

According to the railways, there are 4,365 encroachers on the land, while the occupants are holding protests at Haldwani asserting they are its rightful owners. Nearly 50,000 people, a



Local people from Haldwani react as they celebrate the Supreme Court's order on Haldwani eviction case, in New Delhi, Thursday.

majority of them Muslims, belonging to over 4,000 families reside on the disputed land. Observing that many of the occupants have claimed they have been re-

siding there for over 50 years, a bench of Justice S K Kaul and A S Oka noted there is a "human angle" to the problem and the authorities have to find a "practical way out".

The apex court issued notices to the railways and the Uttarakhand government seeking their responses to a batch of pleas challenging the high court order for removal of encroachments.

"Notice. In the meantime, there shall be stay of directions passed in the impugned order," said the bench, which posted the matter for further hearing on February 7.

"We do believe that a workable arrangement is necessary to segregate people who may have no rights on the land... coupled with schemes of rehabilitation

which may already exist while recognising the need of the railways," the bench said.

The top court observed it may not be correct to say to bring in paramilitary forces to dispossess these people.

In its December 20 last year order, the high court had said, "The railway authorities in coordination with the district administration, and if need be, with any other para-military forces, shall immediately, after giving a week's notice to the occupants over the railways land, ask them to vacate the land within the aforesaid period." The apex court, however, said since people sought to be removed have stayed there for so many years, some rehabilitation has to be found for them.

### Prez for more women officers in MES



New Delhi, Jan 05 (PTI)

Significant push is being given to women empowerment in the defence forces whether in combat roles or medical services, President Droupadi Murmu said on Thursday, calling for more number of women officers in the Military Engineer Services (MES).

Addressing officer trainees of the MES, who had called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, she said as young officers in the field of construction, they have the prime duty to care of the environment also. "We must move towards increased use of renewable energy for sustainable development," Murmu said.

## Woman killed by elephant in Surajpur

Surajpur, Jan 05:

A 62-year-old woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Surajpur district on Thursday, forest officials said.

Veva Barato was killed in Gaura village under Pratappur range when she was out for some work, Divisional Forest Officer (Surajpur) Sanjay Yadav said.

"The kin of the deceased has been provided an instant relief amount of Rs 25,000. The remaining compensation of Rs 5.75 lakh will be given after the completion of all formalities," he said. A herd of 35 jumbos had been roaming the area from the last couple of days and villagers were asked to stay alert, Yadav informed. Human-elephant conflicts in the northern part of the state, mainly Surguja,

### About the incident

The victim Veva Barato(62) was killed in Gaura village under Pratappur range when she was out for some work. The kin of the deceased has been provided an instant relief amount of Rs 25,000. The remaining compensation of Rs 5.75 lakh will be given after the completion of all formalities. A herd of 35 jumbos had been roaming the area from the last couple of days and villagers were asked to stay alert.

Raigarh, Korba, Surajpur, and Balarampur districts, have been a major cause of concern for the last one decade. According to forest department officials, a total of 220 people were killed in elephant attacks in the state in the last three years.

## CJI recuses from contempt case against Kamra

New Delhi, Jan 05 (PTI):

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Thursday recused himself from hearing a batch of pleas seeking contempt action against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra for his alleged scandalous tweets against the judiciary.

A bench headed by the CJI took up the petitions and said, "We will place this matter before a bench to which I (CJI) am not a part of because the comments (tweets) were made on the order, which I have passed."

The bench also comprising Justice PS Narasimha then listed the matter after two weeks and the CJI, in his administrative capacity will now assign the case to another bench.

Kamra had started publishing the tweets on November 11, 2020, when the top court was hearing an appeal of Arnab Goswami against the Bombay High Court's order rejecting the journalist's plea for interim bail in a 2018 abetment-to-suicide case.

The order granting interim bail to Goswami was passed by a bench headed

by Justice Chandrachud.

On January 29, 2021, Kamra in his affidavit had defended his tweets against judiciary, saying India would be reduced to a "country of incarcerated artists and flourishing lapdogs" if powerful people and institutions show inability to "tolerate rebuke or criticism".

Kamra, facing contempt proceedings, also said there was a growing culture of intolerance where taking offence is seen as a fundamental right and has been elevated to the status of a "much loved national indoor sport".

## 11 Omicron sub-variants found during testing of international travellers

■ All variants earlier reported in India  
New Delhi, Jan 05 (PTI)

Eleven Omicron sub-variants were found during testing of international travellers between December 24 and January 3, and all these variants have been earlier reported in India, official sources said on Thursday.

Of the 19,227 international travellers tested during the period, 124 were found Covid positive, they said, adding that all of them were put in isolation. The sources said that of

the 124 positive samples, genome sequencing results of 40 were received of which XBB, including XBB.1, was found in 14 samples and BF 7.4.1 in one sample.

Meanwhile, in India 11 types of COVID-19 Omicron Sub-variants were detected during testing of international passengers at airports and seaports between December 24 to January 3, official sources have said.

The other variants that are reported after samples from these international travellers are BA.5.2, BQ.1.1, BQ. 1.1(22), BQ.1.1.5,

### 'Don't panic, be alert'

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday asked the public not to panic about COVID-19, but be alert and follow the directives issued by the government from time to time. He further said COVID-19 variants will keep coming but the important thing is which variant will react and people should only believe information shared by government sources to avoid any kind of panic in the country. The health minister said that the government is alert and making all preparations.

CH.1.1, CH.1.1.1, BB.3, BN.1.2, BN.1.3, BY.1 and BF. The sources further said that these all variants are already present in the country.

India saw a slight increase in COVID infections on Thursday as it witnessed 188 new cases in the last 24 hours according to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). The country recorded 175 new cases on Wednesday.

According to the MoHFW, India's active caseload currently stands at 2,554 with the active case rate at 0.01 per cent.

## M'luru Blast NIA detains student of mechanical engineering

Mangaluru (KTK), Jan 05 (PTI)

A seven-member team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday detained a student of mechanical engineering college here in connection with the cooker blast on November 19, said the authorities of the institution.

"The NIA officials came this morning, saying they want to question a student in connection with the blast," a college staff told PTI. He added that the seventh semester student is studying mechanical engineering in the college.

"We are ashamed of this development," the staff said. Mohammed Shariq sustained severe burn injuries in the blast on November 19 when he was travelling in an autorickshaw. The vehicle driver also sus-

tained injuries in the explosion. Presently, Shariq is under treatment in a government hospital in Bengaluru. Shariq and his accomplices were allegedly inspired by the terror outfit Islamic State and were in touch with it through telegram messaging application. Police also said their handlers outside India had even sent a document to guide them in making a bomb. Using the document, they made a bomb and carried out a trial on the banks of Tunga river near Shivamogga. Police had said there was a planned to unleash large-scale destruction across Karnataka. Due to violence on August 15 last year over the Hindutva ideologue V Savarkar in Shivamogga, the police busted an IS-inspired terror module, but Shariq had given the police the slip.

### OPPANNA PERFORMANCE

**School students show their hands before 'Oppanna' performance during the 61st Kerala School Kalolsavam, in Kozhikode, Thursday.**

## Another 'peeing' incident on AI flight comes to light

New Delhi, Jan 05:

Ten days after the shocking November 26 incident on a New York-Delhi Air India flight, another episode of a 'drunk' male passenger allegedly 'urinating' on a blanket of a female passenger was reported on the Paris-Delhi sector but penal action was not pressed after the passenger gave a written apology, officials said on Thursday.

This incident happened on December 6 on Air India flight 142 and the pilot of the aircraft reported the matter to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI)

### DGCA issues show cause notices to airline officials, crew

Holding that Air India's conduct appeared to be "unprofessional", aviation regulator DGCA on Thursday issued notices to the officials and crew of the New York-Delhi flight, asking why action should not be taken against them for "dereliction" of duty while handling the November 26 'urination' incident. In a shocking incident, an inebriated man allegedly urinated on his female co-passenger, a senior citizen in her seventies, in the business class of an Air India New York-Delhi flight on November 26 last year. After the incident came to its notice on January 4, DGCA said it sought details from Air India.

Airport about it, following which the male passenger was apprehended.

It was not known which class the passengers were travelling.

The flight landed around 9.40 am at Delhi and the airport security

was informed that the male passenger was under the influence of alcohol and he was not following the instructions of the cabin crew and he later peed on a blanket of an on-board lady passenger, airport officials told PTI.

### HC OBSERVATION

'Sexual offences is dark reality of society'

Ahmedabad, Jan 05 (PTI):

Refusing bail to a man accused of molesting his minor daughter, the Gujarat High Court has observed that rape and molestation are a "dark reality" of Indian society. In the judgement passed last month, Justice Samir Dave also cited verses from the Manusmriti and Padma Purana to underline the importance of parents in a person's life. "Rape or molestation is one such dark reality in the Indian society that devastates a woman's soul, shatters her self-respect and for a few, purges their hope to live. It shakes the insight of a woman or girl who once was a happy person," said Justice Dave in his order on December 16. The judgement copy became available on January 4.

### UGC ANNOUNCES DRAFT NORMS

## Foreign univ can now set up campuses in India

■ Decide admission process, fee structure

New Delhi, Jan 05 (PTI)

Foreign universities will be able to set up their campuses in India for the first time with the UGC on Thursday unveiling draft norms, under which these varsities can also decide on the admission process, fee structure and repatriate its funds back home.

Noting that foreign universities with campuses in the country can only offer full-time programmes in offline mode

### Norms for opening campuses

Noting that foreign universities with campuses in the country can only offer full-time programmes in offline mode and not online or distance learning, UGC chairperson M Jagadeesh Kumar said the foreign universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will need a nod from the UGC to set up their campuses in India. The initial approval will be for 10 years and will be renewed in the ninth year subject to the meeting of certain conditions, he added and clarified that these institutions shall not offer any such study programme which jeopardises the national interest of India or the standards of higher education here.

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## 'Ram Mandir in Ayodhya to be ready by Jan 1'

Sabroom, Jan 05 (PTI)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced that the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be ready by January 1 next year.

Addressing a public rally here in poll-bound Tripura, Shah said that the Congress and CPI(M) had put the Ram Mandir issue in the jurisdiction of the court for long, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for it after the Supreme Court's order.

"Rahul baba, listen from Sabroom, that a mammoth Ram Mandir will be ready on January 1, 2024," he said attacking Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. At Sabroom in South Tripura district, Shah flagged off a BJP rath



yatra, the second one during the day after Dharmanagar in North Tripura district, aimed at highlighting the state government's achievements ahead of the assembly elections due early this year. The country is safe at the hands of Modi, the union minister said.

"Ten days after the Pulwama incident in Kashmir, Indian soldiers went inside Pakistan and carried out a successful operation under Modi's leadership," he said.

# 'Veer Mata' sits on hunger strike against BMC's decision

**Bhilai, Jan 05:**

On Thursday, mother of a Martyred Jawan sat on Anshan to protest against the Bhilai Municipal Corporation's decision to name the Power House Fish Market after Late Corporator Gaffar Khan. The district administration responded immediately and accepted the demand of Martyr's mother to name this fish market after her son's name. Later, Veer Mata ended her

hunger strike by accepting juice from MP Vijay Baghel.

It needs to be mentioned here that the General Body of Bhilai Municipal Corporation had recently approved the proposal to name the Power House Fish Market after late Corporator Gaffar Khan. The BJP Corporators including Bhojraj Sinha had raised strong objections and had made the house aware that the Manjhi Samaj and the family of



Martyr VishramManjhi have been demanding for the last 15 years to name this fish market after the Martyr's name. But the proposal in favour of Late Gaffar Khan was approved by the majority vote.

Protesting against this decision, the members of Manjhi Samaj and traders of this fish market submitted a memorandum to District Collectorate on Tuesday and intimated the administration that Martyr's mother is going

to stage hunger strike from January 05 against the decision of BMC. On Thursday, Martyr's Vishrammanjhi's mother Rukmani Devi sat on hunger strike at Power House. Ex-Army Association, Members of Manjhi Samaj, fish market vendors and BJP party workers came forward in her support. BJP District President Brijesh Bichpuria, former Mayor Nirmala Yadav, Corporator Vinod Singh,

Bhojraj Sinha, Veena Chandrakar, IshwariNetam remained present at the venue.

Members of the Ex-Army Association stated that the BMC has insulted a brave Jawan who made supreme sacrifice for the nation. They condemned the BMC and administration for neglecting the demand of a martyr family. Nishad Samaj office bearers stated that they have been doing business in Power House Fish Market

## Hemchand Yadav University extends date of online exam application till Jan 12

**Bhilai, Jan 05:** The date of filling online exam application form for the annual examination session 2022-23 to be conducted by Hemchand Yadav University, Durg has been extended for the last time by the university administration. Now students can fill online exam application form till January 12 with late fee of Rs 500. Giving this information, the registrar of the university, Bhupendra Kuldeep said that January 13 has been fixed as the last date for submission of hard copies of online filled application forms by the students in the college. After this there will be no extension in the date of application for examination.

The registrar further informed that the other day a delegation of students had requested the university administration to increase the last date for submission of examination application form along with late fee. Taking cognizance of this, a meeting of officials was organised in the university on Thursday. Officiating Vice-Chancellor Dr Prashant Srivastava, Registrar Bhupendra

Kuldeep, DCDC, Dr Preeti Lal, Finance Officer, Sushil Gajbhiye, Deputy Registrar, Rajendra Chauhan, Assistant Registrar, Himanshu Shekhar Mandavi, Digvijay Kumar were present at the meeting. After discussion at the meeting and thereafter telephonic discussion with the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta (being on leave), it has been decided to increase the date of submission of online examination application form till January 12. The Registrar has urged all the students to ensure that they submit the online examination application compulsorily by the prescribed date. Deputy Registrar of Examinations, Dr Rajmani Patel informed that the process of allotting roll numbers of the students is being done by the examination department, after which the internal assessment examination will be organised in the colleges. The University will conduct practical examinations from February 01, 2023. In this regard, all the colleges are being directed to complete the syllabus of practical classes.

## SRJS youth wing head checks preparations for Youngistan Cup Cricket

**Bhilai, Jan 05:**

Manish Pandey, president, youth wing of Shri Ram Janmotsav Samiti (SRJS) visited the cricket ground on Thursday to take stock of the preparations for the Youngistan Cup 2023 cricket tournament, starting from January 06. He visited grounds in Risali, Radhika Nagar and Khursipar as well as met with the captain and vice-captain of all the teams participating in the tournament and urged them to join the "Bhilai ki Safai" campaign. He called upon those present to join this campaign and make the general public aware of cleanliness. Here it needs a mention that the tournament will be inaugurated at Risalton January 06 at 10:00 hrs, Radhika Nagar at 11:00 hrs and Khursipar ground at 12:00 hrs. Giving details Manish Pandey

said that the Youngistan Cup 2023 cricket competition is being organized by the committee for the sports lovers of steel city. In the first phase, the qualifying rounds will be played from January 06 to January 15 at Risali Dussehra Ground, Radhika Nagar behind Supela Police Station and Khursipar Dussehra Ground. After that the main league will be organised at Sector-1 Cricket Stadium. Pandey further said that the main objective of this event is to make Bhilai residents aware about cleanliness and health. He added that the committee is going to run this campaign taking inspiration from the cleanliness week, which was run for 50 weeks by the former speaker of the state assembly, Prem Prakash Pandey.

## Manoj Thakre honoured with Atal Tiranga Samman



**Bhilai, Jan 05:** Nationalist organization Salute Tiranga Sangathan recently organized its National Convention and Atal Tiranga Samman Ceremony in New Delhi. Manoj Thakre, State President of Salute Tiranga, was honoured with Atal Tiranga Samman. Union Minister of State for Defense VK Singh, former Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat, Patron Kapil Swami,

President Rajesh Kumar Jha, MP Manoj Tiwari and other dignitaries felicitated Thakre with memento and shrial. State Secretary of Salute Tiranga, Kishore Kannoje informed that under the leadership of State President Manoj Thakre, they organised mass singing of VandeMataram and National Anthem at 75 schools / colleges during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava. They conducted a campaign to make the

people aware about the importance of the tricolour flag. During August 11 to 15, the Chhattisgarh State Unit of Salute Tiranga conducted the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. Manoj Thakre informed said that Kargil War hero Deepchand (Nashik) and Deputy Inspector General of Mumbai Police, who caught Kasab, were specially honored with Atal Tiranga Samman. 2075 women and men members, national and provincial office bearers from 25

## Defensive Driving Training organised



**Bhilai, Jan 05:** Defensive Driving Training was organized inside the Plant by Behavioural Interventions Cross Functional Team for the first time in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Blast Furnace # 8 administrative building on Wednesday. One Day Training was imparted to 21 employees of Iron Zone departments- BFs, SP2, SP3, LDCC 2, LDCC 3 and OHP. Leader of Behavioural Interventions Cross Functional Team (BI

CFT) Tapas Dasgupta, CGMI/c Iron addressed participants and urged them to strictly follow the Safety guidelines and also spread awareness about Safety among co-workers. Saumya Tokdar, CGM, BFs, Susanta Kumar Ghosal, CGM, SMS 2, Sanjay Dhar, CGM (HRD & BE), DL Moitra, CGM, Environment, Bonya Mukherjee, GM, Rajiv Sonteki, GM, CPD and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

## GP Singh incorporated as member in MoS Committee of experts on safety

**Bhilai, Jan 05:**

A committee of experts on safety has been formed by Ministry of Steel, Government of India to strengthen safety in steel sector. The committee will assist the Ministry for preparation of process based safety guidelines. GP Singh, Acting CGM (Safety & Fire Services) Bhilai Steel Plant has been included in the committee as Member Expert. While Ashish Chakravarty, ED, SAIL Safety Organisation (SSO) is the Convenor of the Committee and S Vashishth, CGM (SSO) is a Member, Singh from SAIL-BSP happens to be the only Member Expert included from among all the SAIL plants. Besides SAIL, representatives from NMDC, MECON, RINL, Tata Steel, JSW, Arcelor

Mittal, JSPL, Indian Steel Association, IIT Kharagpur and NISST have also been incorporated in the Committee as Members.

A meeting of the Committee was held in Steel Room of Ministry of Steel on January 03, 2023 to discuss preparation of guidelines for ensuring safety in the process of steel making. Responsibilities were fixed for preparation of safety instructions for different processes so as to strengthen safety during steel making. It was decided during the meeting that the interface of man, machine, and environment, and asset management, investigation of incidents, training of human resources and its effectiveness, indicators of safety performance, creation of

safety database and proactive data collection etc be included for preparation of guidelines. It was decided to form small teams of members according to their areas of expertise to further discuss and evolve each guideline.

GP Singh, Acting CGM (Safety & Fire Services) Bhilai Steel Plant has been made leader for preparation of blast furnace process based safety guidelines. Besides, Singh will also contribute as Member of sub-committee for preparation of guidelines for SMS, Sinter Plant, Hot Rolling Mills, Cold Rolling Mills, Contractor Safety Management. Singh is credited for starting several initiatives to strengthen safety in BSP such as Safety Circle, Safety Warrior, Zero Tolerance Rules etc. He also has his credit several patents and copyrights. Singh has been honoured with Rashtriya Vishwakarma Puraskar as many as four times. Besides, he has demonstrated his capabilities in international quality circle conventions in Japan, China and in India.

## District's first electric crematorium starts functioning at Ramnagar Muktidham



**Bhilai, Jan 05:** The first electric crematorium of the district has started functioning at Ramnagar Muktidham. The testing process was being done for the last two-three days with wood logs. On Thursday, the first cremation was done at this establishment. It needs to be mentioned here that on the initiatives of Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, the electric crematorium has started functioning in Bhilai. Transformers have also been installed for power supply. The entire process of cremation takes around one-and-a-half to two hours in this machine. Thereafter, the bereaved family can get the skeletal remains (Asthi) to conduct further rituals. This electric crematorium is also very useful from the point of view of the environment. If the crematorium is operated for 10 hours in a day, cremation of 5 to 8

bodies can be performed here. It will be very helpful during the rainy season when there is a shortage of dry wood.

Senior Technician Dhanesh Kumar said that for electric cremation, a temperature of 550 to 600 degrees is required. First of all, the dead body is kept in it and the process is started by controlling the temperature. After the complete procedure, bone collection can be done. A separate lower chamber has been prepared for bone collection. Blast furnace Bricks have been used in the structure. Krishna Deshmukh, an employee posted in Ramnagar Muktidham, informed that the first body was cremated on Thursday. In the presence of the people of Bengali Samaj, cremation of the late Radha Shyam Karmakar was conducted through an electric crematorium. About Rs 49 lakh has been spent in the construction work of the electric crematorium. The agency will operate and maintain it for the next two years. Apart from this, the agency will impart training to the employees. It needs to be mentioned here that the decision of establishing an electric crematorium was taken after witnessing the situations of Corona Pandemic.

## Mayor distributes pattas of Rajiv Gandhi Ashray Yojna

**Bhilai, Jan 05:**

On Thursday, Mayor Neeraj Pal distributed the pattas to be beneficiaries of the Rajiv Gandhi Ashray Yojana. The happiness was clearly visible on the faces of the beneficiaries after getting the lease documents. Pattas were given to the beneficiaries of Ward No 16 Shankar Para and Indiranagar Supela. During the lease distribution, District President Mukesh Chandrakar, Mayor Council member and in-charge of Public Works Department Ekansh

Banchore, Vaishali Nagar Zone President Ramanan Maurya and Zone 6 President Rajesh Keshav Choubhe and Block President Nandkumar Kashyap were present. After completion of survey work and departmental process, new leases of 30 years have been provided to the beneficiaries. Now on the basis of this lease, the beneficiaries can also get the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Binda Bai d/o Ganesh Netam, Bhumita Hatile d/o Jagdev Hatile, Kusum Bai d/o Kishorilal,

Bachchi Devi d/o Shyam Kishore, Janki Sinha d/o Budhram Sinha, Ishwari Devi d/o Gangesh Yadav, Savita Devi d/o Raj Kumar Yadav and Sushila Bansor d/o Giriram Bansor, Rinku Sahni d/o Jagdish Sahni, Shakuntala Das d/o Bharatdas and Usha Sahu d/o Raghunath Sahu are among the beneficiaries who received the lease. The beneficiaries were already residing at the same place but they did not have any related documents. Now they will be able to get the benefits of government schemes.

## Two nabbed with counterfeit notes worth Rs 2.50 lakh

● Were trying to use it in the market and nabbed near Balaji Kirana Stores

**Raipur, Jan 05:** Two youths with counterfeit currency worth Rs 2.50 lakh were nabbed by capital police here on Thursday. The police recovered 93 pieces of Rs 2000 notes, 500 notes each and 184 pieces of Rs 100 from their possession. They were looking for customers to consume the counterfeit notes near



Chunna Bhatti area of Ganja Thana area.

As per reports from the Crime Branch and Cyber Unit team, two youths were found trying to use counterfeit notes near Balaji Kirana Stores at Chunna Bhatti area here on Thursday morning. On this the police based upon



tip from an informer nabbed the two as per the details disclosed.

On holding inquiry with the two, they disclosed their names as Shiv Prasad Manhare and Parag Ratre R/o Shakti. When the police conducted search, they found notes in the denomination of Rs 2000, 500 and 100 in their possession. On

this both the accused were taken into arrest and counterfeit notes worth Rs 2.50 lakh, including 93 pieces of Rs2000 and Rs 500 and 184 pieces of Rs 500 were seized. A case under section 420, 34 and 489(E) of IPC was filed against the two. Out of these the accused Shiv Prasad Manhare, S/o Parasram Manhare, R/o Ramkarouvadhi Thana Jajapur had served imprisonment earlier in Thana Jajapur in the counterfeit note case. The other accused is Parag Ratre of Shakti.

## CM extends greetings of Chherchera Tihaar

**Raipur, Jan 05:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has extended greetings and best wishes of Chherchhera folk festival to people of Chhattisgarh. On the occasion, Baghel has wished for the happiness, prosperity and progress for people of the state. In the message released on the eve of Chherchhera festival, Baghel has said that Chherchhera Punni Tihaar, which is celebrated as 'Maha Daan' and harvest festival, is the conductor of our social harmony, spirit of sharing and the rich glorious tradition.

On this day, children, youth and women of the village go to the barns and

houses and recite 'Chherchhera, kothi ke dhan la herhera'. They collect paddy and money given by the people and make plans for the whole year. This folk festival is celebrated on the full moon of the month of Paush to celebrate the harvest of new crop. Maa Shakambhari Jayanti is also celebrated on this day. According to mythological belief, on this day Lord Shankar had asked for alms from Mother Annapurna. This is why people donate vegetables and fruits along with paddy.

Chief Minister said that many dimensions of generosity can be observed in

the farmers of Chhattisgarh. It has been a tradition in the state to share the crop produced with the people in need, workers, animals and birds. Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh government has also declared Chherchhera Tihaar as a public holiday so as to preserve and promote this glorious heritage and traditions of the state. He has said that Chherchhera Tihaar teaches us unity and harmony to eradicate discrimination and arrogance from the society. It is our responsibility to pass on this rich tradition and civilization of Chhattisgarh to future generations.

## More than 500 Architects to attend All India convention

● CM to inaugurate the two-day meet today

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jan 05:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate the two-day All India convention of Architects being organized under the aegis of Indian Institute of Architects Chhattisgarh Unit on Friday at Deendayal Upadhyaya Auditorium here. Minister for Urban Administration Dr Shiv Daharia and MLA Raipur West Vikas Upadhyaya would also be present on the occasion.

According to the infor-

## CHSL Exam today

**Raipur, Jan 05:** The CHSL Exam 2021 (Skill Test) by the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, organized by the Staff Selection Commission, will be held on January 6 from 9 am to 5.30 pm in 3 shifts. The examination will be conducted at the Eon Digital Zone Sarona Parthivi Province Commercial Complex, Sant Ravidas Ward No. 70 Sarona Raipur Examination Center, located in Raipur City as determined by the Commission. Deputy Collector Ruchi Sharma has been appointed as nodal officer for smooth conduct of the examination.

## WATER HYACINTH



City's lifeline Kharun has been covered with water hyacinth due to lack of cleaning and mixing of waste water from different sources into the river.

## Flower exhibition cum competition from Jan 7

**Raipur, Jan 05:** "Prakriti Ki Aur Society" (PKAS) in association with Indira Gandhi Agriculture University, Raipur Municipal Corporation and Jindal Steel Power Limited (JSPL) is organising a three-day grand Exhibition / Tournament from January 7 at Nehru/Gandhi Udhyan.

Providing the above information at a press conference here, the PKAS President Daljeet Bagga and Secretary Mohan Varlyani said that Indoor Plants too would be part of the exhibition apart from the seasonal flowers. School students too would join the exhibition of Flower and Vegetable



Rangloli. They said that Visitors would be provided valuable information about the horticulture during the exhibition by the experts. At the same time Home Garden competition will be held under which the panel would be visiting best 70 Gardens out of which 20 of them would be awarded. A special exhibition of nearly 7

thousand flower pots by JSPL would be the added attraction of the three-day mega event.

Organizers informed that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel would inaugurate the exhibition on January 7 whereas Cabinet Minister Shiv Daharia would be the chief guest of the concluding day event.

## DNA based genetic diagnostic test discovered

● To test for sickle cell anemia

**Raipur, Jan 05:** A very low cost sickle cell anemia genetic diagnostic test has been developed by Senior Scientist Dr Jagannath Pal and team at Multi Disciplinary Research Unit (MRU) located at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur. Sickle cell anemia can be tested in all categories of patients at a very low cost through the genetic diagnostic test (method of testing based on heredity). Sickle cell disease can be diagnosed in time, es-



pecially in children below the age of 2 years, including newborns by the said method of sickle cell test. Sickle cell anemia can also be screened in pregnant women even before delivery with the help of DNA based genetic diagnostic test.

The facility of sickle cell test in newborns and less than two years of age is not yet available in Chhattisgarh, so this test technique will prove to be



very effective in the diagnosis and management of sickle cell disease. Since fetal hemoglobin is high in children below the age of two years, currently available conventional diagnosis system - Hb electrophoresis and HPLC method cannot diagnose it. The new sickle cell diagnostic technique developed by MRU is based on (qPCR) in which DNA can be used for accurate results. junior scientist Dr Yogita Rajput, med-

ical college dean Dr Tripti Nagaria, Ambedkar hospital superintendent Dr SBS Netam, MRU nodal officer and HoD ophthalmology Dr Nidhi Pandey, HoD gynaecology Dr Jyoti Jaiswal, associate professor Dr Smriti Nayak and Chandulal Chandrakar Memorial Medical College dean Dr Pradip Kumar Patra.

The cost of this test is very less as compared to other expensive commercial tests available in the market, said Dr Jagannath Pall. According to him all categories of patients can be examined through this test at a very low cost, within about Rs 20 to 50.

## Ch'garh's Ansh secures 12th position in CLAT exam

**Raipur, Jan 05:** To turn any dream into reality, it is necessary to have hard work, willpower, concentration and positive thinking even in adverse circumstances, believes Ansh Parashar, a class 12th student of Krishna Public School, Dunda Raipur, who has secured 1140th position in All India ranking and 12th position in Chhattisgarh in CLAT-23 (Common Law Admission Test) held on 18th December bringing laurels to the city, his school and his family members.

Ansh Parashar said that he started preparing for CLAT-23 in March 2022. It was not a smooth sailing for him, he said, adding that he



had to undergo a surgery in May 2022, which affected his preparation from May to July 2022. Ansh was determined to get good marks in CLAT-23 and stayed positive even in

adverse circumstances. He worked hard for 6 to 8 hours daily since August for CLAT along with his 12th studies. Regarding the role of coaching institute in competitive examination, Ansh says that a good coaching institute can definitely do the work of guidance, but the student has to make efforts and work hard. Ansh has been a brilliant student since the beginning of his student life and has scored 98% in class 5th, 97% in class 8th, 95% in class 10th. Ansh aspires to prepare for UPSC and become a member of the All India Services in the future. His father is a judge and mother is a teacher.

## Placement camp on 9th January

**Raipur, Jan 05:** The District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center, Raipur is going to organize a placement camp on January 9 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the District Employment Office, Old Police Headquarters premises with the aim of providing employment to the local educated unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh.

## MP, MLAs extend support to demo against Chaupaty construction



Peoples' Representative term construction as illegal

**Raipur, Jan 05:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ajay Chandrakar and Member of Parliament from Raipur Sunil Soni on Thursday joined the indefinite dharna of BJP Spokesperson Rajesh Munat against the construction of Chaupaty in the Pt Ravishanker Shukla University premises. Addressing the demonstration, the BJP Chief Spokesperson Ajay Chandrakar said that the demonstration against the construction of Chaupaty is a battle for the future and extended his support to the Raipur BJP as it is fighting

for the Youth who live in the region which is known as Education Hub of the City. He said that the entire process of construction of Chaupaty is illegal and is being aimed to benefit a particular section of society ignoring the youth of the region. Raipur MP Sunil Soni said that the construction of Chaupaty is against the Master Plan of the City and added that the Municipal Authorities have to face ire of the people due to the illegal construction. BJP Spokesperson Rajesh Munat said that the campaign launched against the construction of Chaupaty has become public movement as more and people have extended support to the demonstration against the administration. He added that Mafia rule would come to an end soon and the people guilty would be punished.

## Assembly passes bill prohibiting gambling

**Raipur, Jan 05:** The Chhattisgarh Assembly on Wednesday passed a bill prohibiting gambling, including in online form, in the state.

It exempts lotteries, but bans betting or wagering in person or through online platforms for financial gains.

State Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu tabled the Chhattisgarh Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2022 in the House.

The statement of objectives of the bill said it is the duty of the state government to ensure social and economic security of citizens.

Under the bill, whoever is found gambling in public places (or abetting it) shall be liable for imprisonment up to six months or a fine of between Rs 3,000 to Rs 10,000, or both.

If the owner or occupier of a house or online platform allows it to be used for gambling, he or she will attract imprisonment of six months to three years and fine of up to Rs 50,000 for the first offence.

For subsequent offences, such offenders will face imprisonment for two to five years and penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Online gambling and its abetment will attract imprisonment between one year to three years and fine between Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh for a first-time offence.

For subsequent offences, an accused will face imprisonment from two years to seven years and fine of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

Whoever found providing bank account, mobile app wallet or any other account for gambling and gains profit from it shall be liable to imprisonment upto six months or fine upto Rs 10,000, or both.

The advertisement of gambling will be prohibited in print and electronic media and the violation of rule will attract imprisonment up to three years and fine up to Rs 50,000.

The bill also has provisions of punishment for a company indulging in offences related to gambling.

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## Collector Dr. Bhure reviewed preparations

**For state level Chhattisgarh Olympics**

**Events to start at Indoor stadium on January 8, competitions will be held till January 10**



Raipur, Jan 05: Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure on Wednesday reached Balveer Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium to review the preparations for the state level Chhattisgarh Olympic Games starting from January 8. He instructed the officials of the concerned department to complete all the preparations ahead of time for the Chhattisgarh Olympic Games. Competitions will be held at three places in

officials of CSIDC, Sports Department, Municipal Corporation and concerned department were present. The state level games of Chhattisgarh Olympics will conclude on January 10 at 5 pm. The collector gave instructions to the officials to ensure the safety of the players, food arrangements and smooth traffic arrange-

ments, to complete all the arrangements on time by taking information about the players-officers, administrators-judges participating in the competition. The collector asked the officials of the municipal corporation to ensure arrangements for stage, poster, banner, flag, mike, sound and light, generator, lime marking, mobile and temporary toilets, drinking water tanker for complete cleanliness of the venue and games at the venue. He also instructed for necessary medical, doctor and medical staff, medicines, ambulance, arrangement of ORS solution for the participants and deployment of fire fighting vehicles at the venue. He told the officers of all concerned departments to work in coordination.

**Three school children injured due to bees attack**



Jagdalpur, Jan 05: Bees have made many hives on a large scale in the water tank located near Bastar Club in the district headquarters. Here bees have been continuously attacking people passing by for the last three days. Due to these attacks, people living nearby and passing by regularly are scared. Along with this, the passers-by are facing trouble due to the incident of bee attack happening daily. On Thursday morning the children of Nirmal Vidyalaya, who were going to school, were attacked by bees. Due to which three school children were injured, whose treatment is going on in Maharani Hospital. It should be known that three to four school children have to come and go through this route.

## Moh. Azharuddin pays courtesy call on CM

Raipur, Jan 05: Former Indian cricket team captain Mohammad Azharuddin paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his official residence here on Thursday. Azharuddin discussed various important topics with the Chief Minister and efforts being made by the government to promote cricket in Chhattisgarh. He also discussed the International one-day match to be played between India and New Zealand on January 21 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Raipur. The former captain also congratulated Chief Minister



Baghel on Chhattisgarh hosting this upcoming ODI match. He also congratulated Baghel on becoming a grandfather. Meanwhile, Mohammad Azharuddin is on a visit to Raipur.

## Youth Chamber's meeting concludes

**For organising 63rd Annual Conference**



Secretary Mr. Kanti Patel said that under the leadership of Chamber State President Mr. Amar Parwani, a meeting was held at Chamber Bhavan, Bombay Market, Raipur on Tuesday regarding the preparation of the 63rd Annual Conference of the Chamber to be held at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Science College Raipur on January 10, 2023. Youth Chamber State General

office bearers of the Youth Chamber was organised in which the office bearers kept their views and suggestions regarding the annual conference and with great enthusiasm talked about their participation and cooperation in this event. Mr. Patel further said that due to covid pandemic, the annual conference is being organised by the chamber after three years, for which there is

great enthusiasm among the office bearers and traders. Patel also said that the entire youth chamber is busy in its preparations to make this event a success. Invitation letter has been sent through post to each member of the chamber to participate in the event. They are also inviting them by contacting the Youth Chamber Association. Chamber State President Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttamchand Golcha, Working President Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal, State Incharge IT Cell-Kailash Khemani, Youth Chamber in-charge Jai Nanwani, General Secretary Kanti Patel and other members were present.

## 'Prerita Mahila Samiti' organised Sharad Mela 2023 at NTPC Lara

Bilaspur, Jan 05: Ashwini Kumar Tripathy, RED (WR-II) & ED (OS) and Uma Tripathy, President (Arpita Mahila Samiti) inaugurated Sharad Mela 2023, organized by Prerita Mahila Samiti, NTPC Lara on Jan 4, 2023. Large numbers of stalls of different varieties of food items, household articles, vehicles, clothes etc were opened by vendors. Besides, members of 'Prerita Mahila Samiti' made their stalls, decorated with traditional value of different Indian states, served various mouth-watering food items to the visitors. For entertainment of visitors



cultural programme was performed by local Chhattisgarhi folk dancers. Fun game, micky mouse jumping house, trampoline, toy horse riding was also there for amusement of small children.

Besides fun and amusement, Prerita Mahila Samiti use this occasion for the welfare of senior citizens and differently abled staying in oldage home and destitute home of district Raigarh. Uma Tripathy, President

(Arpita Mahila Samiti) and Seema Kaushik, President (Prerita Mahila Samiti) donated blankets to the inmates of Senior Citizen home and differently abled home of Raigarh. Dignitaries from nearby projects, Ghanshyam Prajapati, ED (Sipat) and Somesh Bhandopadhyay, HoP (Tailaipali Coal Mining Project) was also part of this celebrations and enjoyed the mela along with Diwakar Kaushik, ED (Lara) and all GM's of NTPC Lara. For successful organisation Smt Seema Kaushik, President Prerita Mahila Samiti thanked all the stake holders.

## GNKC wins inter-college cricket tourney



Nandini Ahiwara, Jan 05: Govt. Nagrik Kalyan college nandini nagar ahirawa won the inter college cricket competition in durg University by defeat-

ing kherta college by 8 wickets in which kherta college for 47 runs while fielding first tulsidas took 4 wickets lokesh scored 18 runs and won the match.

## E-Commerce stakeholders released Delhi declaration

**Bigger Save India-Save Trade forum launched**

Raipur, Jan 05: CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhiya, State General Secretary, Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed that at Indian Trade conclave organized by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) at New Delhi on Wednesday, some of the leading national associations related to traders, transporters, MSMEs, Hotels & Restaurants, Travel, Hawkers, Mobile, FMCG, Toys, Electronics, Direct selling, Computer media, Jewelers and

others came down heavily on foreign e-commerce companies for greatly distorting not only the e-commerce but even retail trade of India with their continued mal-practices and violation of FDI policy. The CAIT along with various other organizations released a "Stakeholders E Commerce Delhi Declaration" announcing a 5 points Charter for both Central & State Governments demanding its immediate implementation to protect domestic traders from the vicious clutches of foreign companies. CAIT National Senior Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi informed the organisations that attended the conclave have formed a "Save India-Save Trade Forum" which will reach out to other Federations, Associations, Chambers across the country and will obtain support to their charter. \*Till the Governments do not accept and implement the points raised in the charter, the

nationwide agitation on these critical issues will be continued. It is high time that foreign e-tailers are doing whatever they want and we are sitting absolutely idle and silent spectator. It will not be tolerated any further more because the offline trade in India is greatly suffering at the hands of these foreign companies. Mr. Parwani & Mr. Doshi informed that demanding strong action against foreign e-commerce companies who are indulging into mal-practices and violation of policy, the leaders of offline trade called upon the Central Government to immediately roll out e-commerce policy and National Retail Trade Policy in order to protect the offline trade from the vicious clutches of global e-tailers who are commonly known as habitual offenders worldwide. They have been penalized in various Countries for their misdeeds but it is most unfortunate that they have been given a free passage in India-said the leaders.

## Chitrakoot team wins the title of Baredharaur Pro-Kabaddi tournament



Jagdalpur, Jan 05: Bastar MP Deepak Bajj participated as the chief guest in the conclusion of the Pro Kabaddi competition organized at Baredharaur village of Lohandiguda development block of the district. A total of 32 teams participated in this competition. The final match of Kabaddi was played between Chitrakoot and Baredharaur. In which the winner was Chitrakoot and the runner-up was the team of Bade Dharaur. The first prize of Rs 20,000 was given to the winning team by the chief guest MP Deepak

Bajj. On the other hand, the second prize of ten thousand rupees was awarded to Badharaur. Along with this, women's tug of war competition was also organized during the Kabaddi match. In which women participated enthusiastically, and the winning team was also awarded in this tug of war game. On this occasion, Bastar MP Deepak Bajj said that the game of Kabaddi is not a game of strength but of discipline and technique. And in this game only the player who plays with discipline takes his team for-

ward. The game of Kabaddi is the most popular game in the rural area. He congratulated and congratulated the winner and runner-up team of the Kabaddi competition as well as all the players who participated in this competition. During this, BCC President Laxman Kashyap, Balram Manjhi, Vijay Uike, Rakesh Meshram, Dharam Kotwar, Binu Patel, Sudan, Pilaram Sethia, Tularam, a large number of villagers and sports lovers were present along with MP Bastar Deepak Bajj.

## Delegation of five organizations including IMA Raipur meet CM



Raipur, Jan 05: A delegation of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Raipur, Nursing Officers Association Chhattisgarh, Pharmacists Association, Junior Doctors Association Medical College Raipur, and Ambulance Association met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here today and put forth their various demands. Besides, they also submitted a memorandum

in this regard. The Chief Minister assured necessary action on the demands of these organizations. Indian Medical Association Raipur President Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Dr. Mahendra Singh, Dr. Anil Jain, Dr. Vikas Agrawal, Dr. Digvijay Singh, Dr. Gaurav Singh Parihar along with Dr. Reena Rajput, Shri Hira Shankar Sahu and Shri Ajay Rajput were present on the occasion.

## Variety of prog marks two-day annual sports festival 2022-23

**In Ispat Public School, Nandini Mines**

Nandini Ahiwara, Jan 05: A two-day annual sports festival 2022-23 was inaugurated with enthusiasm and enthusiasm in the huge sports complex of Ispat Public School, Nandini Mines here on Wednesday. P. Ikka (G.M. Nandini Mines) was the chief guest on the occasion and Omen Te Te (D.G.M. Mechanical & Maintenance) Sudhakar Jamulkar (General Manager) Virendra Kumar (Manager Nandini), Bhupendra Verma and Budhram Chandresh (Parent's representative) and Rashmi Sahu were present as special guests. In this sports festival, GM of Nandini Mines, P. Ekka inaugurated the program by



hoisting the flag and lighting the torch. School Principal Dr. B.P. Sahu welcoming the guests who graced the event on the occasion reiterated his commitment to perform even better in the coming year while referring with pride and respect to the sports talents who won state level and national level awards in the current year. During this, as the chief guest, P. Ekka, expressing his

hearty happiness over the performance of the students who proved their sporting talent at the national level outside the state, said that the spirit of sports reflects national unity and the participants prepared for the competition in the field. During his address he appreciated the excellent and remarkable performance of the school in academic as well as co-curricular activities. On this

occasion, the winning students were felicitated by the chief guest and distinguished guests. In the ceremony, the talented students of the school gave a very beautiful dance performance with the determination to make India the best in the world map, in which many types of sports were also being expressed symbolically. The above presentation drew a lot of

applause from the audience. Under the first phase of the two-day sports festival, the senior exercise teacher of the school A.K. B. and under the able guidance of Singh and Rameshwari, various events of the sub-junior, junior and senior groups began with the 100 meters race of the senior students. In which Shubham Sahu (Vayu Sadan) got first, Ayush Chandrakar (Vayu Sadan) second, Atharva Sahu (Aditya Sadan) got third place. The second competition was a cycle race for the students of class Nursery, in which they performed with a bang. In this competition, Man Kharab (Aditya House) got first, Aryaman Kharab (Vayu Sadan) second and Parganiha (Vayu Sadan) got third place. Class L.K.G. Students of U.K.G. Vegetable Race, Kavya Patel (Agni Sadan) got first,

Lavisha Barle second, and Avni Sahu (Aditya Sadan) third and frog race U.K.G. There was competition among the students. In which Aditya Singh (Agni Sadan) stood first, Ansh Aggarwal (Vayu Sadan) second, Arpit Verma (Angira Sadan) third. In relay race (4x400) senior girls, Agni Sadan got first position, Angira Sadan got second position. Rashmi Patel first (Vayu Sadan), Aadya Sahu second (Agni Sadan), Lalsa Sahu (Angira Sadan) got third place in rope jumping competition of senior students. On the first day of the program, all the participants gave their best performance in their respective sports. Tried to do A large number of parents present on the occasion appreciated the program while encouraging the children.

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असाधारण EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii) PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, दिसम्बर 29, 2022/पौष 8, 1944 NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022/PAUSHA 8, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 29th December, 2022

S.O. 6126(E).-In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as said Act.) the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highways No. 43, on the stretch of land from Km. 69.900 to Km. 104.300 (Pathalgaon-Kunkuri-CG/JH Section) in the District of Jashpur in the State of Chhattisgarh, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Competent Authority (Land Acquisition) and Sub Divisional Officer (Revenue) Jashpur, District Jashpur (C.G.) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further inquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures, falling within the stretch of land from Km. 69.900 to Km. 104.300 (Pathalgaon-Kunkuri-CG/JH Section) of National Highway No. 43 in the district of Jashpur in the State of Chhattisgarh.

State: CHHATTISGARH District: JASHPUR

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Survey / Plot Number, Type of Land, Nature Of Land, Area (in Local Unit), Area (in Hectare)

Taluk : Jashpur

Village: Bargaoan

Main table of land acquisition details for Taluk: Jashpur, Village: Bargaoan, listing 97 plots with their respective details.

Table of land acquisition details for Village: Biropani, listing 20 plots.

Table of land acquisition details for Village: Boki, listing 22 plots.

Table of land acquisition details for Village: Chaalitangartoli, listing 29 plots.

Table of land acquisition details for Village: Charaidand, listing 16 plots.

Table of land acquisition details for Village: Dabnipani, listing 27 plots.

Table of land acquisition details for Village: Ghoraghat, listing 44 plots.

Table of land acquisition details for Village: Gira, listing 30 plots.

BRIEF



Devotees take part in the car festival of Suchindrum Sithanumalaya Temple in Kanyakumari, Thursday.

Suicide

Bhopal: A 24-year-old woman doctor allegedly committed suicide by injecting herself with an anaesthesia drug in the hostel of the government-run Gandhi Medical College (GMC) in Bhopal, a police official said on Thursday. The body of the woman, identified as Akansha Maheshwari, was found in her hostel room on Wednesday evening, the official said.

Fire

Noida: A fire broke out in a warehouse of cartons in Greater Noida on Thursday morning, prompting relief measures by officials at the site. No person was hurt in the fire, a senior official said. Chief Fire Officer, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Pradeep Kumar Chaubey said that the fire broke out around 11.30 am at the factory located in Ainnabad village in Ecotech 1 police station area.

Greet

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin greeted his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee on her birthday on Thursday.

SOREN TO CENTRE

'Take 'appropriate decision' on tourism in Parasnath'

Ranchi, Jan 05 (PTI)

Amid Jains across the country protesting any move to promote tourism in Parasnath Hills, one of the holiest places for the community, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday urged the Centre to take an "appropriate decision" on one of its notification.

Though Soren wrote to Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bupender Yadav on an August 2019 notification issued by the Centre that called for promoting tourism and eco-tourism in Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary, he maintained silence on another February 2019 notification

issued by the then BJP government in the state that designated Parasnath Hills as a tourist spot.

Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary is a part of the Parasnath Hills in Giridih district.

Soren said that the state government has so far acted on provisions in the Centre's notification keeping in view the sentiments of the Jain community.

"As per applications received from followers of Jainism, have written a letter to Union Forest Minister Bupender Yadav to take an appropriate decision on Centre's notification to maintain the sanctity of Sammed Shikhar in Parasnath," Soren said in a tweet.

Shri Sammed Shikharji

in Parasnath Hills in Giridih district, home to the highest peak in the state some 160 km from Ranchi, is among the holiest places of the Jains, including for both Digambaras and Shwetambaras sects, as 20 of the 24 Jain tirthankaras attained 'moksha' (salvation) in this location.

Soren, in the letter, said police patrolling has been intensified in the area to ensure that the sanctity of the place is maintained.

The Jain community has been demanding the scrapping of all notifications declaring the place as a tourist spot, fearing it may lead to consumption of liquor and non-vegetarian food in the area, which will hurt their sentiments.

ANNUAL MUSIC FEST



Vocalist Sajan Mishra and his son Swaransh Mishra perform during the 43rd Saptak Annual Music festival, in Ahmedabad, Thursday.

Calcutta HC upholds dismissal of 59 primary teachers

Kolkata, Jan 05 (PTI)

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday upheld the dismissal from service of 59 primary teachers in West Bengal government-sponsored and aided schools for having obtained appointment through illegal means, taking the total of such persons who lost their jobs to 252.

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay had ordered the removal from service of a total of 269 primary teachers in an earlier order and these 59 people were among them.

On a prayer by some of the persons who lost their jobs, the Supreme

Court had directed that these 269 persons be given an opportunity to be heard by the high court.

Dissatisfied with their submissions filed through affidavits, Justice Gangopadhyay on Thursday upheld the dismissal of 59 persons who were working as primary school teachers.

Out of the 269 persons, the high court has already upheld the removal from service of 192 such primary school teachers after perusing their submissions, filed through affidavits, as per the apex court direction.

Of them, dismissal of 53 from service was up-

held on a December 23 order and the loss of job of another 140 was confirmed on an order of January 4. Noting severe irregularities in appointments of teachers by the West Bengal Board of Primary Education on petitions by candidates who claimed to have been denied jobs despite having qualified the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) in 2014, Justice Gangopadhyay had ordered a CBI investigation in the matter. He had also ordered termination of jobs of 269 primary teachers who were found to have got the jobs through manipulation of marks and ranks in the results of

the TET. The petitioners before the single bench had alleged that although they appeared for TET-2014, no list containing the marks of candidates and indicating their respective merit positions was ever published, and that an additional panel of 273 candidates was prepared illegally, who were granted one additional mark, out of over 20 lakh candidates who appeared for the TET.

It was claimed that by dint of this one additional mark, 269 candidates out of the 273 got qualified for the job of teachers and subsequently got appointments.

Bengal to serve chicken, fruits in mid-day meals

For four months

Kolkata, Jan 05 (PTI)

Ahead of the panchayat elections due this year, the West Bengal government has allotted Rs 371 crore for introducing chicken and seasonal fruits in mid-day meals from January to April. In addition to the existing midday meal menu of rice, potato, soybean and eggs, chicken and seasonal fruits will be served weekly once for four months for additional nutrition under PM POSHAN, according to a notification. The provision of additional items, however, is unlikely to continue after April, a school department official said.

Students are at present given rice, pulses, vegetables, soybean and eggs in schools as part of mid-day meals. An amount of Rs 20 will be spent per

week on providing additional nutrition to every student, and the process will continue for 16 weeks, according to the January 3 notification, a copy of which is available with the PTI.

Over 1.16 crore students in state-run and aided schools are beneficiaries of the mid-day meal scheme, for which the state and Centre share the cost on a 60:40 ratio. The additional allocation of Rs 371 crore, however, was made entirely by the state. Asked whether the state will allocate another amount after the four-month period, the school department official said that no such decision has been taken so far. He said the additional items will be served with immediate effect in every block on different days of the week. The move triggered a political row, with the BJP questioning why

such a decision was taken ahead of the panchayat elections due this year and Lok Sabha polls in 2024, while the Trinamool Congress accused the Opposition of "smelling politics in everything".

"The decision to serve chicken to school children ahead of elections raises questions about the change of heart of the TMC government. Why were poor children deprived of these items and only given rice and lentils till recently? The decision smacks of a political motive to secure votes as panchayat polls are around the corner," BJP leader Rahul Sinha said. TMC's Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen said party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee always stands by the side of the common people, and this decision "reaffirms that fact".

Table with 10 columns: S.No, Sl. No., Ownership, Land Use, Area (Hectare), and Amount. It lists land records for various villages including Jholanga, Portenga, Lokhandi, Narayanpur, and Putrichaura.

## Concerned about China's handling of COVID-19, says Biden



Washington, Jan 05 (PTI):

The United States is concerned about China's handling of COVID-19, US President Joe Biden said Wednesday and noted that Beijing is not that forthcoming.

"Well, yes, I am," Biden told reporters when asked if he was concerned about the COVID-19 situation in China. The US along with

India and several countries have imposed restrictions on travellers from China.

"I think we just got to make the protocol we set out: that if you're flying from China, you got to be tested, and so on," he said.

"China has not been... I know they're very sensitive... when we suggest they haven't been that forthcoming," Biden said

in response to a question.

State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters that when Covid is spreading anywhere, but especially in a country as populous and as large as China, of course there is the potential for variants to emerge.

"We have seen variants emerge apparently from other regions of the world that have ultimately reached the United States," he said.

"This is a transnational — all public health threats are by their very definition transnational. We want to do all we can to see to it that the PRC gets this under control and to put in place prudent steps so that we do everything we can to prevent the spread of any potential variants, should they emerge beyond any country's borders," Price said.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization said it believes that China is undercounting its Covid cases. The US, Price said, is not going to characterize discussions between China and the WHO. Those discussions took place on Tuesday.

"Senior WHO officials have, over the course of the day, characterized not only those discussions but their assessment of what they have seen but more appropriately, what they have not seen from the PRC. We have seen the statement from the WHO's emergencies director that the current numbers being published in China under-represent the true impact of the disease in terms of hospital admissions, in terms of ICU admissions, particularly in terms of deaths," Price said.

## FUNERAL MASS



Faithful attend the funeral mass for late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Thursday, Jan. 5. Benedict died at 95 on Dec. 31 in the monastery on the Vatican grounds where he had spent nearly all of his decade in retirement.

## Pak court bars Election Commission from removing Imran Khan as PTI chief

Lahore, Jan 05 (PTI):

A top court on Thursday stopped the Election Commission from removing ousted prime minister Imran Khan as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's chairperson.

The top election body last month initiated the process to remove 70-year-old Khan as chairman of his party following its verdict in the Toshakhana (national depository) case. It had disqualified the ousted premier under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution for making "false statements and incorrect declaration".

Khan on Wednesday filed a petition in the high court against the electoral body's move. The Lahore High Court (LHC) took up

the petition of Khan and stopped the Election Commission from initiating the process to strip him of the chairmanship of his party after listening to the arguments of his counsel, Senator Ali Zafar.

LHC judge Justice Jawad Hassan also issued a notice to the ECP to file its reply on the issue on January 11. Khan has asserted that the law does not place any bar on a convict from becoming an office-bearer of a political party. In the petition, the ousted premier said the ECP has exceeded its powers by trying to remove him as his party's chairperson. "The cognizance and exercise of jurisdiction by the ECP for debaring Imran Khan from holding the office of the

party chairman on the basis of alleged incorrect statement of assets and subsequent disqualification is unlawful and contrary to the Constitution," Khan said in the petition.

"The entire scheme of the qualification under the Constitution and the Act has been misconstrued by the ECP and the precedent set by the Supreme Court in disqualification of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has been misapplied to the detriment of the petitioner.

In fact, the impugned findings of ECP are to the detriment of the entire scheme of parliamentary democracy which is not warranted in law and are liable to be set aside by the court."

## Pak Army chief travels to Saudi Arabia on his maiden visit abroad

Islamabad, Jan 05 (PTI):

Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir on Thursday travelled to Saudi Arabia on his first official visit abroad where he met Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties, including in the defence sector.

General Munir arrived in Saudi Arabia early Thursday and was received by Defence Minister Prince Khalid. During the meeting, they emphasised the strength and durability of bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, state-run Saudi Press Agency reported.

"They discussed military and defence cooperation, and ways to support and enhance them, in ad-



dition to discussing the most important regional and international issues of common interest," it added.

The meeting was attended by the Chief of General Staff of Saudi Arabia, Lt Gen Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili; Assistant Minister of Defence Eng. Talal bin Abdullah Al-Otaibi, and a number of Saudi and Pakistani military and civilian officials.

Later, Prince Khalid tweeted that he was "pleased" to meet General Munir. "We emphasised the strategic partnership be-

tween our brotherly countries, reviewed the bilateral military and defence relations, and discussed ways of strengthening our cooperation," Prince Khalid tweeted.

General Munir, who has headed Pakistan's both powerful spy agencies - the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence (MI), assumed charge as the new Army chief in November end, replacing General Qamar Javed Bajwa who retired after two consecutive three-year terms.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the Pakistan Army - earlier said that General Munir would be visiting Saudi Arabia and the UAE from January 4 to January 10. "The COAS will be meeting the senior leadership of both brotherly countries to discuss matters of mutual interest, mili-

tary-to-military cooperation and bilateral relations focusing on security-related subjects," it said in a statement.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy close military and economic ties and the kingdom has been providing critical support at the crucial hours.

Earlier, Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif also toured Saudi Arabia and the UAE in a bid to secure funds for the crash-strapped country.

Pakistan faces a serious crisis as its foreign reserves are down to USD 5.8 billion, which include deposits worth USD 5 billion from Saudi Arabia and China with specific conditions of use.

## Imran Khan alleges Bajwa wanted to get him killed

Lahore, Jan 05 (PTI):

In a fresh attack on Gen (retd.) Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan has alleged that the former army chief wanted to have him murdered and impose a state of emergency in the country.

Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, made the startling allegation during an interview with private Bol News channel in Lahore.

Khan, 70, had been at loggerheads with Bajwa ever since his ouster from power in April by a no-confidence motion.

He suffered bullet injuries in the right leg on November 3 when two gun-



men fired a volley of bullets at him and others standing on a container-mounted truck in the Wazirabad area, some 150-km from Lahore, where he was leading the long march to press for snap polls.

Khan said he was being told by many to stop leveling allegations against Bajwa as he has retired, but he could not cover up "the crimes that Gen Bajwa had committed", the Dawn

newspaper reported, quoting the channel's Lahore bureau chief.

According to the report, Khan, in the as-yet unaired interview, claimed that Bajwa "wanted me dead". Khan has attacked Gen (retd.) Bajwa in the past. Bajwa is now the main target of Khan who not only sees him as the sole reason for all his failures in the government but also alleges that the retired general had toppled his government as part of a US conspiracy.

Last month, Khan accused Bajwa of playing a "double game" against his government and said that he committed a "big mistake" by extending the tenure of then military chief in 2019.

## Hong Kong to start reopening border with China on Sunday

Hong Kong, Jan 05 (AP):

Hong Kong will start to reopen its border with mainland China on Sunday and allow tens of thousands of people to cross from each side every day without quarantine, the city's leader said.

The city's land and sea border checkpoints with the mainland have been largely closed for almost three years under China's "zero-COVID" strategy, which has restricted entry to the country, isolated infected people and locked down areas with outbreaks. The reopening is expected to provide a much-needed boost to Hong Kong's economy.

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER**  
**MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> Call)**  
 System Tender No. : 118775/NIT No. : 11/SAC/2022-23,  
 Gariaband, Dated : 03.01.2023  
 Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to  
 20.01.2023 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

**Name of Work :** REMODELING AND C.C. LINING FROM R.D.0 TO 815 M OF KOMA SUB MINOR NO.1, R.D.0 TO 910 M OF KOMA SUB MINOR NO.2, R.D.0 TO 1200 M OF RAJIM SUB MINOR, R.D.0 TO 1915 M OF SEMHARATARA SUB MINOR, R.D.3210 TO 7650 M OF PITAIBANDH MINOR, R.D.0 TO 600 M OF SUB MINOR NO.1 AND R.D.0 TO 750 M OF SUB MINOR NO.2 OF PITAIBANDH MINOR, CONSTRUCTION OF 02 NO.V.R.B. OF PITAIBANDH MINOR OF PAIRI IRRIGATION PROJECT IN BLOCK FINGESHWAR OF GARIABAND DISTRICT.

**Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 247.35 Lakhs**  
 (As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 01.08.2014))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 10.01.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

**NOTE :-** All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
 Water Resources Division, Gariaband  
 for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin  
 Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

G-97307/1

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**WATER RESOURCES CIRCLE, BILASPUR (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
**(SECOND CALL)**  
 System Tender No. : 118681/NIT No. : 17/SAC/2022-23  
 Dated : 02.01.2023  
 Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to  
 19.01.2023 at 17:30 Hour

**Name of Work :** RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK AND CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT CONCRETE LINING R.B.C. MAIN CANAL BETWEEN R.D. 360 M TO 990 M, R.D.1080 M TO 2850 M. (TOTAL 2400 M.) AND L.B.C. MAIN CANAL BETWEEN R.D. 0 M TO 180 M., 240 M., R.D. 240 M. TO 450 M., R.D. 540 M. TO 1590 M. AND R.D. 1620 M. TO 2010 M. (2970 M.) AND 08 NOS. STRUCTURES INCLUDING 13 NOS. OUTLETS OF KEONCHI DIVERSION SCHEME.

**Probable Amount of Contract - Rs.197.56 Lakhs**

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated 09-01-2023 at 17:31 hours (IST) onwards.

**Note :-** 1. All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor / supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.  
 2. Probable Amount of Contract (P.A.C.) is as per S.O.R. 01.08.2010. (As Amendments 01.08.2014).

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
 WATER RESOURCES DIVISION PENDRAROAD (C.G.)  
 For, Superintending Engineer  
 Water Resources Circle, Bilaspur (C.G.)

G-97299/1

**RAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
 Bhakti Mata Karma Complex, New Rajendra Nagar, RAIPUR (Chhattisgarh) 492006  
 Website : <https://rda.cgstate.gov.in>, Email : [ceordaryr@gmail.com](mailto:ceordaryr@gmail.com), Tele Fax : 0771-2538188

**NIT No. 02, Dated: 05.01.2023, System Tender No.-119673 Date 05.01.2023**  
**NIT for Construction of Group-B Commercial Complex/ Shops at Indraprastha Phase - II, Raipur**

Raipur Development Authority (RDA) invites tenders for "Construction of Group-B Commercial Complex/Shops at Indraprastha Phase-II, Raipur, Raipur (C.G.)", qualifying criteria is detailed in the tender Document. The submission of bid starts from 05.01.2023 @5:30 PM to 26.01.2023 upto 5:30 PM on <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Technical Bid opening will be on 27.01.2023 @04:00 PM, (Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 53.34 Lacs, EMD Rs. 53,000/- & Cost of Tender Document Rs. 10,000/- + Rs. 311/-) at the office of Chief Executive Officer, Raipur Development Authority, Raipur Chhattisgarh. Any amendment(s)/Corrigendum(s) shall be posted only on the website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.

**Superintending Engineer**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,**  
**CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**Tender Notice**  
**(1st Call)**

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
133/118695	S.R.M.O.W & DEPOSIT WORK OF SCIENCE COLLEGE SECTION & AYURVEDIC COLLEGE SECTION, RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 40.00 Lakh
138/118696	STRENGTHENING OF VARIOUS BUILDINGS UNDER VIDHAN SABHA SUBDN. RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 35.90 Lakh
139/118697	उपसभाग क्र.-4, आरंभ रायपुर के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में विशेष परमत्त, सीमेंट कांक्रिट का कार्य। (1) बाना बस्ती पहुँच मार्ग किमी. 1/2 (152 मी.) (2) बनरसी पहुँच मार्ग किमी. 1/2 (152 मी.) (3) मैसमुड़ी कुलीपोटा मार्ग किमी. 1/2 (152 मी.) (4) कनकी देवरतिल्ला पंच परसवानी मार्ग किमी. 2/2 (30 मी.) 2/4 (121 मी.) = 151 मी. (5) मैसमुड़ी कोरसी पिरदा मैसमुड़ी मार्ग किमी. 3/10 (152 मी.) = 152 मीटर	Rs. 49.94 Lakh
131/118698	ROAD FURNITURE WORK OF (1) BAKTARA TO NAKTA ROAD. LENGTH - 5.00 Km (VILLAGE ROAD) & STRENGTHENING OF ARANG-KALAI-KHAMTARAI ROAD LENGTH - 9.85 Km (2) RIWA TO JAROOD ROAD Km. 1/2 TO 7/2 LENGTH - 6.20 Km (VILLAGE ROAD) (3) PIRDA TO CHERIKHERI ROAD Km. 1/2 TO 3/8 LENGTH - 2.80 Km (VILLAGE ROAD)	Rs. 26.23 Lakh

**Last date of tender Download Date up to 25.01.2023 Time 17:30 PM.**  
 Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Superintending Engineer**  
 P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1  
 Raipur (C.G.)

G-97292/5

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER**  
**MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> Call)**  
 System Tender No. : 118762/NIT No. : 10/SAC/2022-23,  
 Chhuikhadan, Dated : 03.01.2023  
 Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to  
 20.01.2023 at 17:30 Hour

**Name of Work :** RENOVATION AND RISING OF ANICUT WARD NO. 4 KHAIRAGARH ON PIPARIYA NALLA BLOCK KHAIRAGARH, DISTRICT KHAIRAGARH-CHHUIKHADAN-GANDHI (WATER MAGNIFICATION SCHEME) (DEPOSIT WORK)

**Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 240.20 Lakhs**  
 (As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 01.08.2014))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 10.01.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

**NOTE :-** All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Executive Engineer**  
 Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan  
 for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin  
 Raipur (C.G.)

G-97312/3

**SECTION - 1: Invitation for Tender**  
**POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, NAVA RAIPUR**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
 No. PHQ/TSCYBER/PURCHASE/ 02/2023 Nava Raipur, Dated : 02/01/2023

Sealed Tenders are being invited from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or OEM Authorized Dealer on behalf of the Assistant Inspector General of Police (Technical Services), Government of Chhattisgarh for the following items-  
 "Procurement of Cyber Forensics Tools for Police Department, Government of Chhattisgarh"

Sr.No	Name of Item	Qty	EMD in Rs
01	Disk Forensic Software	01	10000/-
02	Disk Duplicator Device	01	5300/-

The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents sealed and completed in all the respect, must be submitted as per the schedule below -

a)	Address for submission of Tender Document-	AIG of Police(P&P), Block no 03, Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.
b)	Date and time of pre-bid meeting	06/01/2023 till 03.00 pm Block no 03, Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur
c)	Publication of response to pre-bid Queries	06/01/2023
d)	Last Date and Time for submission of bid	23/01/2023 till 03.00 pm
e)	Place, Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid	23/01/2023 at 4.00 pm Block no 03, Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.
f)	Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid	Shall be intimated.
g)	Date till which the Bid to remain valid	180 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid.

**Note:-**

- In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day.
- Tender documents can be downloaded from our website [www.cgpolice.gov.in](http://www.cgpolice.gov.in) and at the time of submission of document tender fee of Rs. 2000/- will be paid in the form of DD of State Bank of India/Scheduled Bank payable at Raipur in favour of Assistant Inspector General of Police (Accounts), Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Nava Raipur or State Government Challan of Rs. 2,000/- to be deposited in the Head of A/c-0055-Police-800-other receipt. Tender Fee is non-refundable and can't be exempted in any condition.
- Modifications/Amendments/Corrigendum (if any), shall not be advertised on the newspaper but shall be published in the aforesaid website only.
- Incomplete bids received shall be summarily rejected.

**Assistant Inspector General of Police**  
 (Technical services)

G-97316/1



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 277

### Job market distortion

There were 1.3 crore more entrepreneurs in India in 2022 compared to 2018, but there were 1.4 crore people less in employment – 45 lakh fewer men and 96 lakh fewer women – in October 2022 compared to January 2020. Younger unemployed persons are the worst hit by such a Job market distortion. The latest CEDA CMIE Bulletin Booklet released last week by the Asoka University's Centre for Economic Data and Analysis has come out with the data after analysing the "Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on People's Economic Lives" as seen through CEDA-CMIE bulletins in 2021 and 2022. Under "The Long Road to Recovery" the authors Preetha Joseph and Raashika Moudgill said that employment, hit hard during the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. Women and younger individuals (15-39 years old) have been hit harder by unemployment in the past three years. In a return to pre-pandemic trends, the services sector now employs the largest share of India's workforce. Changes in overall employment following the first Covid-19 lockdown seem to be primarily driven by fluctuations in rural employment during this time. Women were less likely to be part of the formal workforce than men even before the pandemic, but they lost employment in greater proportions when the lockdowns were imposed. The younger population has been hit more compared to older adults. As of October 2022, about 20 per cent fewer people in the age group of 15-39 were employed as compared to January 2020. However, among older age groups (40-59), the number of people employed in October 2022 has seen an increase – an additional 25 million compared to January 2020. Urban employment in the past 3 years has remained relatively stable following the initial months of stringent lockdowns. Compared to January 2020, only 0.4 million more individuals were employed in urban India while rural India employed 15 million fewer individuals as of October 2022. Though agriculture sector continued to employ a rising number of individuals since the first lockdown, it has slowed down in the past year. In 2019-20 and 2020-21 there was 4 per cent increase in agriculture employment but it had slowed down to 2.6 per cent in 2021-22. Decrease in rural employment in June 2022, for example, was driven by a fall in agricultural employment. This coincided with the delayed southwest monsoon that may have impacted employment for Kharif sowing. On the other hand, the decrease in rural employment in October 2022 seems to be due to a decrease in manufacturing and service sectors, while employment in agriculture rose by over 5 million. Overall, employment in the real estate and construction sector seems to have returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2022. Employment in manufacturing has shown slow and only partial recovery. Around 6million fewer individuals are employed in this sector as of October 2022, compared to average employment in the sector in the years 2018 and 2019. The services sector, India's largest employer, now employs around 147 million people. This sector too saw a shrinking of jobs during the pandemic and is yet to touch the pre-pandemic numbers of the workforce. Within services, it is the wholesale and retail trade sector that has seen remarkable expansion. The sector did not contract significantly even during the pandemic years, and is now employing over 70 million people compared to 59million in FY 2018-19. Financial services sector too has seen an uptick in the number of people employed over the years. In FY 2021-22, the number of people employed in the sector grew by 16.1 percent as compared to the previous year. The workforce of the Information Technology and Information Technology enabled Services (IT and ITes) sector also grew by 11 percent between FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. Hotels and tourism, a big employer within services, has not seen similar growth and is still to reach pre-pandemic levels of the workforce. Within the sector, more than hotels and restaurants, it is the travel and tourism sector in particular that has seen the workforce shrink in recent years. Other sectors within services are also still to go back to employing similar numbers of people as they did pre-Covid-19. Small traders and wage labourers continue to make up the largest share of employed workers. However, the share remains lower than the pre-pandemic period, at around 27 percent of employed workers, as compared to 42 percent in 2016 and 32 percent in 2019. Overall, the number of farmers and entrepreneurs has followed a rising trend before and during the pandemic. The rise in the number of entrepreneurs has been quite significant – There are 13 million more entrepreneurs in 2022 as compared to 2018. The number of individuals employed as salaried workers and small traders/wagelabourers were on the decline prior to the pandemic and have not recovered to previous levels as of 2022. Household incomes, wages, expenditure, savings – all took a sharp hit during the pandemic. Urban household incomes shrank more than rural ones. By June 2022, incomes were marginally higher than in the beginning of 2020, but urban India is yet to exceed those levels. By October 2022, chit funds, life insurance, and provident fund became the most popular ways to save. By June 2022, average monthly wage was only Rs 4,015 (urban Rs 5,439 and rural Rs 3,350). Ashwini Deshpande, professor of Economics at the Ashoka University and Director at Centre for Economic Data & Analysis (CEDA) and Mahesh Vyas, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at the Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE) have provided a clearer view in this compilation showing how the economic lives of individuals and households have seen a marked shift in the last three years of the pandemic. The compilation has highlighted how several of the problems that COVID-19 exacerbated, existed pre-pandemic. "We fear that the problems may continue to plague us, unless we develop appropriate policy responses," the authors said. "The two big questions that still beg answers are – how do we build a better health infrastructure and how do we deal better with an income shock to a large section of society?"

### COLD AND FOGGY MORNING



A security personnel stands guard as labourers walk on the Kartavya Path during a cold and foggy morning, in New Delhi, Thursday, Jan. 5.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### SC's demonetization verdict

Five judge constitutional bench of Supreme Court of India upheld the government's process of demonetization in 4:1 verdict. The only one judge in the five member bench, Justice B.V. Nagarathna who dissented the majority. It is so sorrowful to see the judiciary's stand on a disastrous calamity like demonetization which threw middle class, daily wages workers into extreme poverty and hunger. On other hand it damaged the cash-backed informal economy. The unemployment was touching skies and the GDP was falling down. More than fifty lakh people lost their jobs. It is deeply astonishing to see that SC didn't find any flaw in the devious policy like demonetization thrown on weak shoulder of the countrymen.

Muzakkir Khan, MMERC, Mumbai

#### Job-oriented plans

Unemployment has become a chronic problem in India. Urban and rural unemployment rate is increasing. Leave the educated youth, even rural labourers don't get an opportunity to earn their livelihood. The posts of judge, principal and schoolteacher are lying vacant. The authorities concerned are not bothered about the worsening condition of the millions of people. Competitive examinations are getting complicated day by day. It is difficult for rural students to get through these examinations and get jobs. Consequently, they remain unemployed. Job-oriented plans must be chalked out to tackle the problem of unemployment.

RK Pawar, by mail

#### Punish guilty

It is beyond comprehension as to why the Delhi police could not spot and intercept the car on the 12-km-long stretch. According to the victim's friend, the car occupants knew that the victim was stuck in their car, but they chose to drive continuously. No word of criticism is enough to describe their horrific act. Home Minister Amit Shah must intervene and seek a transparent probe into the incident without any delay. All those guilty should be punished to set a strong example. It is yet another blot on the national capital's image.

Bal Govind, Noida

## Millet is a boon for health



PRIYANKA SAURABH



The term millet is used for small grain cereals such as jowar, bajra, small millet (kutki), finger millet (raagi), etc. Millet is superior to rice and wheat in terms of mineral, vitamin, and dietary fiber content. The year 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millets. Inadequate investment in product development and commercial scale, low social status of millet food, resistance to dietary habits, and lack of knowledge on the use of millet in daily diet are inhibiting its consumption. Most people like the winter season in India, but this season brings many diseases with it. It is considered best for the growth of fungus and bacteria due to moisture in cold weather. When these microorganisms attack our body, then due to weak immunity, our body quickly becomes vulnerable to diseases. In this season, Bajra roti will take full care of your health along with taste. The fiber present in it will remove stomach problems and relieve constipation. Many nutrients including protein, sodium, carbohydrate, and fiber are found in abundance in millet. You can use it in the form of porridge, khichdi, or roti made of its flour during winter. By eating this, the digestive system of the stomach remains stable and keeps away many prob-

lems including gas, abdominal pain, and indigestion. A considerable amount of iron is found in millet, which helps in increasing blood in the body. Its consumption reduces the risk of heart blockage and the heart also remains healthy. Health experts say that its use prevents anemia during pregnancy and the development of the child in the womb is done properly. In the last few years, the trend of eating coarse-grain bread instead of flour has started increasing. If you do not like bajra, you can also use jowar, cowpea, and gram flour. Why millets are not the first choice, despite their benefits to consumers and farmers, unfair pricing and middlemen have led to farmer distress. Market dynamics are not in favor of the growth of millets. Due to the increase in income and urbanization, millets are being used for purposes other than consumption. The national average for bajra is less than 2 tonnes, compared to 3.5 tonnes for wheat and 4 tonnes for paddy. With access to assured irrigation, farmers would turn to rice, wheat, sugarcane, or cotton. Due to the Green Revolution and the National Food Security Act of 2013, two-thirds of India's population receive 5 kg of wheat or rice per person per month at Rs 2 and Rs 3 per kg, respectively. This goes against the millet.

Millet is superior to rice and wheat in terms of mineral, vitamin, and dietary fiber content. The year 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millets. Inadequate investment in product development and commercial scale, low social status of millet food, resistance to dietary habits, and lack of knowledge on the use of millet in daily diet are inhibiting its consumption. Many nutrients including protein, sodium, carbohydrate, and fiber are found in abundance in millet. You can use it in the form of porridge, khichdi, or roti made of its flour during winter. By eating this, the digestive system of the stomach remains stable and keeps away many problems including gas, abdominal pain, and indigestion. A considerable amount of iron is found in millet, which helps in increasing blood in the body. Its consumption reduces the risk of heart blockage and the heart also remains healthy.

In the absence of government procurement at minimum support price, farmers would hesitate to grow it suitable for both Kharif and summer after the monsoon.

#### What needs to be done to make it more acceptable?

Inter-cropping of millets is beneficial for adopting inter-cropping and providing crop insurance as the fibrous roots of millet plants help improve soil quality, and prevent water runoff and soil erosion-prone areas. helps in the protection of Each school child and Anganwadi beneficiaries can be served one daily meal based on locally procured millet, jowar, ragi, etc. It will promote crop diversification by generating demand. MSP procurement of millets should be part of the decentralized nutrition program, specifically targeting the citizens of tomorrow.

Millets can be served in the form of ready-to-eat foods such as cookies, laddoos, nutrition bars, etc. The Center can fund any state that wishes to purchase millets specific to their region, especially for distribution through schools and anganwadis. Odisha already has a dedicated Millets Mission. A combination of central funding with decentralized procurement linked to nutrition targets can do for millets what the Food Corporation of India has achieved with rice and wheat.

With increasing awareness about the need to stay fit, people are trying to incorporate "healthy" options into their regular diet. Millet is one such item. But, while the importance of millet (low carbs and high protein) cannot be ignored, health experts say that following only a millet diet is not advised. "Bajra is recommended to be consumed in moderation as excessive consumption can have adverse effects as the grain contains substances that interfere with the functioning of the thyroid.

Millets can cause delayed digestion due to their slow digestibility as they are high in fiber. People with intestinal disorders may have trouble. Millets are a good source of amino acids, but too much of amino acids are not recommended for the body. Millets based diets have worked effectively for people with diabetes or heart diseases as millets lower sugar levels. Helps to reduce and boost immunity. However, healthy people should ensure that they include a millet-based diet on alternate days. People should take a protein diet for bodybuilding and those who want to do weight management should take a millet diet.

(Writer is Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, freelance journalist, and columnist.)

## Good hydration key to living longer, healthier life

Scientists have found good levels of hydration may be key to living a longer and healthier life. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) study, adults who stay well-hydrated appear to be healthier, develop fewer chronic conditions, such as heart and lung disease, and live longer than those who may not get sufficient fluids. Using health data gathered from 11,255 adults over a 30-year period, researchers analyzed links between serum sodium levels - which go up when fluid intake goes down - and various indicators of health. The researchers found that adults with serum sodium levels at the higher end of a normal range were more likely to develop chronic conditions and show signs of advanced biological aging than those with serum sodium levels in the medium ranges. Adults with

higher levels were also more likely to die at a younger age. The findings are published in the journal eBioMedicine. "The results suggest that proper hydration may slow down aging and prolong a disease-free life," said Natalia Dmitrieva, a study author and researcher in the Laboratory of Cardiovascular Regenerative Medicine at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of NIH. For the analysis, researchers assessed information study participants shared during five medical visits the first two when they were in their 50s, and the last when they were between ages 70-90, the study said. To allow for a fair comparison between how hydration correlated with health outcomes, researchers excluded adults who had high levels of serum sodium at baseline check-ins or with underlying

conditions, like obesity, that could affect serum sodium levels, the study said. The scientists then evaluated how serum sodium levels correlated with biological aging, which was assessed through 15 health markers. This included factors, such as systolic blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar, which provided insight about how well each person's cardiovascular, respiratory, metabolic, renal, and immune system was functioning. They also adjusted for factors, like age, race, biological sex, smoking status, and hypertension, the study said. They found that adults with higher levels of normal serum sodium - with normal ranges falling between 135-146 milliequivalents per liter (mEq/L) - were more likely to show signs of faster biological aging. This was based on indicators like metabolic and cardiovascular

health, lung function, and inflammation. For example, adults with serum sodium levels above 142 mEq/L had a 10-15 per cent associated increased odds of being biologically older than their chronological age compared to ranges between 137-142 mEq/L, while levels above 144 mEq/L correlated with a 50 per cent increase. Likewise, levels of 144.5-146 mEq/L were associated with a 21 per cent increased risk of premature death compared to ranges between 137-142 mEq/L, the study said. Similarly, adults with serum sodium levels above 142 mEq/L had up to a 64 per cent increased associated risk for developing chronic diseases like heart failure, stroke, atrial fibrillation and peripheral artery disease, as well as chronic lung disease, diabetes, and dementia. Conversely, adults with serum sodium levels between

138-140 mEq/L had the lowest risk of developing chronic disease, the study said. The findings do not prove a causal effect, the researchers noted. Randomized, controlled trials are necessary to determine if optimal hydration can promote healthy aging, prevent disease, and lead to a longer life. However, the associations can still inform clinical practice and guide personal health behaviour. "The goal of providing medical guidance is to ensure patients are taking in enough fluids, while assessing factors, like medications, that may lead to fluid loss," said Manfred Boehm, a study author and director of the Laboratory of Cardiovascular Regenerative Medicine. "Doctors may also need to defer to a patient's current treatment plan, such as limiting fluid intake for heart failure," said Boehm.

**BRIEF**

**Skill development**



**New Delhi:** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday called for creating greater synergy among skill development schemes of all ministries, further aligning skill development efforts and fast-tracking implementation to create impact-at-scale. The Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship chaired the 3rd meeting of the steering committee of the National Skill Development Mission.

**IPO subscribed**

**New Delhi:** The initial public offer of Sah Polymers was subscribed 17.46 times on the last day of subscription on Wednesday. The initial share-sale received bids for 9,79,44,810 shares against 56,10,000 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE. The Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) part was subscribed 39.78 times, the category for non-institutional investors received 32.69 times subscription and Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) 2.40 times. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) had a fresh issue of 1.02 crore equity shares. photo Sangma

**Hydropower project**



**Shillong:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Wednesday inaugurated one of the three units of the 22.5 MW Ganol Hydro Power Project in West Garo Hills district, adding 7.5 MW power to the state's grid. Sangma said that the project worth over Rs 560 crore was completed with commitment as the present government envisaged putting Garo Hills on the power map of the nation. "Power generation has been a hurdle in the Garo Hills region, especially during dry winter months."

## India's GDP nearing to \$20 trillion: Bibek Debroy

**Per capita income at \$10k by 2047**

**Hyderabad, Jan 05:**

India's GDP will be close to USD 20 trillion by 2047 and per capita income may reach USD 10,000 (at current value of USD), Bibek Debroy, chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, said on Wednesday.

Virtually addressing the inaugural session at the 57th Annual Conference of the Indian Econometric Society (TIES) held at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) here, he said though the COVID-19 pandemic may have passed, still there is a lot of uncertain-

ty around the world on what is happening in China, about the Russia-Ukraine conflict, growth prospects in Europe and the USA.

"In 2047, India will have a per capita income of the value of today's dollars of 10,000 US Dollars. The average size of the GDP will be approaching close to 20 trillion US Dollars too. India, therefore, will be a transformed society," a press release from the varsity quoting Debroy said. Remarking that basic necessities have been provided to the people and more so in the rural areas by the government, he said the economic indicators after the COVID have improved in India. Everyone is now looking to see the rate of

growth in 2023-24 and the growth of economy by 2047.

According to him, India may witness volatilities in forex markets and capital markets and exchange rates due to some of the uncertainties around the world such as Russia-Ukraine conflict, growth prospects in Europe and the USA.

"Since India is not insulated, we will also face the volatility, forex markets and capital markets and exchange rates will face volatility. Inflation rates will also be impacted to some uncertainty," he said. Debroy opined that India needs need a simplified GST and direct tax as these are the areas on which everybody should

think and the research that helps in making policy decisions much informed.

In order to increase India's growth rate from 7 per cent to eight per cent, lot more research needs to be done at the level of the States as different States are at different levels of development and hence the sources of growth will also be different.

"But the fact of the matter is that to raise the growth trajectory, we need to make land markets more efficient. Agriculture will also vastly improve when we make land markets more efficient. Similarly, we need to make the labour markets and capital markets also more efficient", he added.

## ICICI fraud: Dhoot's plea against arrest rejected; Kochhars' demand for home food, bed also turned down

**Mumbai, Jan 05:**

A special court here on Thursday rejected Videocon founder Venugopal Dhoot's plea which claimed that his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the alleged loan fraud involving former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar was illegal.

The CBI court also rejected applications of Chanda Kochhar and her husband Deepak Kochhar for home food, beds, mattresses and chairs.

The court directed jail authorities to provide them diet food in consultation with the medical officer. The Kochhars were arrested by the CBI on December 23, while Dhoot was arrested three days later. All three are currently in judicial custody. Dhoot had chal-

lenged his arrest claiming it was illegal and sought immediate release from the case. His lawyer S S Ladda, along with advocate Viral Babar, argued that Dhoot was arrested only because the investigating officer came under pressure after the Kochhar couple's arrest. During the first remand hearing of the Kochhars their lawyer questioned why Dhoot had not been arrested yet, the Videocon group founder's lawyer pointed out. The Kochhars were afraid that Dhoot might become an approver, advocate Ladda said. The Kochhars' lawyer made sure it was recorded in the remand order that Dhoot had not been arrested, which put pressure on the investigating officer leading to Dhoot's arrest, he claimed. Special Judge M R Purwar,

however, didn't find merit in the arguments and rejected Dhoot's plea.

The CBI had named Chanda Kochhar, Deepak Kochhar as well as Venugopal Dhoot along with Nupower Renewables (NRL) managed by Deepak Kochhar, Supreme Energy, Videocon International Electronics Ltd and Videocon Industries Limited as accused in the FIR registered in 2019 under Indian Penal Code sections related to criminal conspiracy and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The CBI alleged that ICICI Bank sanctioned credit facilities to the tune of Rs 3,250 crore to the companies of Videocon Group in violation of the Banking Regulation Act, RBI guidelines and the credit policy of the bank.

## 11 states/UTs join National Single Window System for vehicle scrapping

**New Delhi, Jan 05:**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said 11 states/UTs have been onboarded onto the National Single Window System (NSWS) for Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernization Program (V-VMP) to attract private investment in the vehicle scrapping ecosystem. The ministry, in a statement, further said as on November 14, 2022, applications of 117 investors who have shown interest for Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) are under process, out of which 36 applications have been approved by the respective state governments. Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Chandigarh

have been onboarded to NSWS for V-VMP, the statement added. The vehicle scrapping policy (V-VMP) has come into effect from April 1, 2022. Announced in the Union Budget 2021-22, the policy provides for fitness tests after 20 years for personal vehicles, while commercial vehicles will require it after the completion of 15 years. According to the statement, expeditious onboarding of all other states/UTs on the NSWS has also been initiated. In addition, 84 automated testing stations (ATSS) across 11 states are proposed under the state/UT government control through Request for Proposal (RFP) by doing the necessary tendering. Investor summits have been conducted across 16 states to promote salient features of the V-VMP policy, attracting private investments.



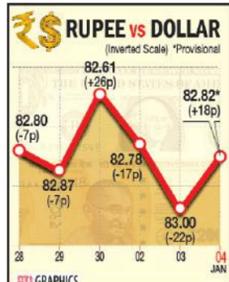
Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Anupriya Patel being presented a memento by Chairman of GJEPC Vipul Shah during the inauguration of India International Jewellery Show - Signature 2023, in Mumbai, Thursday, Jan. 5. BJP MP Poonam Mahajan is also seen.

## Rupee gains 32 paise to close at 82.50 against US dollar

**Mumbai, Jan 05:**

The rupee gained 32 paise to close at 82.50 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, supported by a weaker greenback overseas. Forex traders said factors like strong Asian peers and crude oil prices trading below USD 80 per barrel also helped the currency. However, sustained foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in domestic equities dented investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.75 and touched an intra-day high of 82.50 and a low of 82.80 against the greenback. It finally ended at 82.50 (provisional), registering a rise of 32 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee recovered from its all-time low level and set-



led at 82.82 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.06 per cent to 104.18. "The Indian rupee gained for a second day in trot supported by a weaker greenback and stronger regional peers. However, the gain was curtailed amid foreign fund outflows..." said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

## Nadella meets PM; says Govt's focus on sustainable, inclusive economic growth inspiring

**New Delhi, Jan 05:**

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella, who is on a four-day visit to India, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and pledged the company's support in helping the country realise the Digital India vision. The Microsoft top honcho described his meeting with the PM as "insightful", and lauded the government's deep focus on sustainable and inclusive economic growth driven by digital transformation. "It's inspiring to see the government's deep focus on sustainable and inclusive economic growth led by digital transformation and we're looking forward to helping India realize the Digital India vision and be a light for the world," Nadella tweeted on Thursday. "Thank you



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, in New Delhi, Thursday, Jan. 5.

@narendramodi for an insightful meeting," he wrote. Nadella, currently on day three of a multi-city tour of the country, has been on marathon meetings with customers, startups, developers, educators and students, as well as top government leaders. Nadella had called on External Affairs Minister

S Jaishankar on Wednesday, and issues relating to governance and security in the digital domain had come up for discussion. Nadella also met Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who invited him to invest in India's expanding innovation and startup ecosystem.

## BSNL to start 5G services in 2024

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 05:**

State-owned BSNL will start 5G services in 2024, Union Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday.

BSNL has shortlisted a TCS and C-DOT led consortium for rolling out 4G network, which will be upgraded to 5G in about a year of placing the order under the contract. "BSNL will start 5G services in 2024," Vaishnaw said while speaking to reporters here. He was speaking on the sidelines of an event to launch 5G services of Jio and Airtel in Odisha. Vaishnaw along with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the services. "Entire Odisha will be covered by 5G services in 2



years. Today, 5G services have been launched in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack," the telecom minister said. He had committed to launch 5G services in the state before January 26. Vaishnaw said the Modi government has allocated Rs 5,600 crore for strengthening the telecom connectivity in the state. "100 towers for 4G services covering 100 villages in Odisha have been launched today," he said.

## Markets settle lower for 2nd day

**Mumbai, Jan 05:**

Equity benchmarks ended lower for the second straight session on Thursday, dragged down by banking and finance counters and continuous foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 304.18 points or 0.50 per cent lower at 60,353.27 after it failed to hold on to initial gains. During the day, it fell 607.61 points or 1 per cent to 60,049.84.

The broader NSE Nifty dipped 50.80 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 17,992.15. From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance tanked 7.21 per cent. The other major laggards were Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Titan, Power Grid, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and



Bharti Airtel, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle and Larsen & Toubro were the major winners. Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green. Equity exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals. Markets in the US had ended in the positive territory on Wednesday.

## India has to become a global hub for EVs: Bhavish

**Mumbai, Jan 05:**

2022 will be remembered as the year India's EV revolution truly took off. From just 4000 units a month in June 2021, the monthly run rate reached 80,000 units towards the end of 2022, a 20x growth. From less than 1% penetration in 2021, to almost 6% in just a year, the EV revolution in India has not only been restricted to the urban centers, but is proving to be a pan India phenomenon! In fact, many cities like Bengaluru, Pune, Surat, etc already have an EV penetration of almost 20%, said Bhavish Aggarwal, Founder and CEO, Ola Electric.

The customer preference for EVs across tier 1, 2, 3 cities and rural centers showed us that the market in India had always existed, ready to embrace EVs - the new, superior technology. Bhavish Aggarwal said that today, it is India's opportu-



nity to seize the 21st century. Our ambitions and plans, at Ola, have been inspired by this opportunity that India has to become a global hub for EVs. We started our journey on 15th August 2021 with our announcement of our first scooter and the construction of the world's largest 2W plant. It's only been 15 months and Ola is already the largest EV company in India both by revenue and volume, as well as the fastest growing one! We have sold almost 1,50,000 EVs this year and are working towards our Mission Electric - all 2Ws and all cars sold in India by 2030 to be electric.

## Representing Indore will always be a thing of pride: Lavina

**Indore, Jan 05:**

Lavina belongs to Indore and a winner of AlpenliebeJuzt Jelly (Season 1), India's largest jelly brand from the house of Perfetti Van Melle India which is India's biggest baking talent hunt - AlpenliebeJuzt Jelly Baker's Studio. After winning India's first ever Baking TV reality show life has taken a new turn for her. One of the reasons she wants to be a part of the show is for the winning prize, have her own ways to do and work on things. The name, fame, and accolades she got have boosted both her confidence and love for baking, as well as making her to deal with pressure situations much better. Representing the foodie city of Indore as its first ever contestant on a bak-



ing show and winning it, will always be a thing of pride for her.

Lavina says, "Living in a foodie city 'Indore' it is always difficult as well as exciting to bring in new products and flavors to people. Experimenting with new recipes and creating a wide menu is a task but when I started PurpleBoxByLavina I

wanted to ensure everything is made with love and transparency and has a personalised touch that a lot of customers appreciate. It takes lots of efforts when you are an entrepreneur and the whole soul of the business is only you. When I set out, creating that identity and personalised connect was the biggest challenge, and I am very thankful to my customers and family members who have supported my journey, and made something which could have been difficult, so fulfilling for me. On a daily basis though, the grind is always a challenge - right from creating delicacies which customers will love to clicking pictures to delivering orders safely and most importantly maintaining a work structure in the backend kitchen."

## Britannia Marie Gold collaborates with Google to offer digital business skilling

**Mumbai, Jan 05:**

Britannia Marie Gold's My Startup campaign has successfully run across three seasons, providing funds and skill development for Indian homemakers to embark on their entrepreneurial journeys. In season 2, a partnership with NSDC helped the campaign provide 10,000 homemakers with basic communication skills, financial literacy through access to information and communication technology (ICT), along with micro entrepreneurial skills for social and economic self-reliance. In its Season 3, the Britannia Marie Gold My Startup campaign broadened its offerings to help homemakers leverage the internet to grow their businesses. Speaking on the launch of

Britannia Marie Gold My Startup contest 4.0, Amit Doshi, Chief Marketing Officer, Britannia Industries Limited said, "Britannia Marie Gold has had a longstanding relationship with India's homemakers for several decades now. We have run three successful seasons of Marie Gold My Startup initiative, and received nearly 4 million entries from women across the country, with nearly 60% from non-metro regions."

Commenting on the association with Britannia, Shalini Puchalappalli, Director of Google Customer Solutions, Google India said, "Technology can help businesses grow - but only if the people who lead and work for those businesses have the right skills."

## Total vehicle retail sales jump 15 pc to 2.11 cr units in 2022: FADA

**New Delhi, Jan 05:**

Retail sales of overall vehicles in India grew by 15.28 per cent to 2,11,20,441 units in 2022 led by record sales of passenger vehicles and tractors, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said on Thursday. In 2021, total retail sales of vehicles in India were at 1,83,21,760 units, FADA said in a statement. Two-wheelers retail sales stood at 1,35,78,682 units last year, a growth of 13.37 per cent from 2021 when sales stood at 1,35,78,682 units. Passenger vehicles (PV) retail sales were at 34,31,497 units in 2022, as against 29,49,182 units in 2021, up 16.35 per cent, it added. FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said, "For CY2022, while total vehicle retails grew by 15 per cent year-on-year and 17 per cent compared to CY20 it failed to surpass CY19 retails, (a pre-Covid year) and registered a fall of 10 per cent."



## Emily Ratajkowski slams men who 'don't know how to handle' independent women

**A**ctress Emily Ratajkowski is sick of dating men who "don't know how to handle" strong and independent women and sees the appeal of dating another female instead.

The 'Gone Girl' actress, who has been romantically linked to Brad Pitt, Pete Davidson, DJ Orazio Rispo and Jack Greer since filing for divorce from Sebastian Bear-McClard in September, believes that some guys "truly think they want" an independent partner but ultimately don't enjoy feeling "emasculated" and the relationship then goes down hill.

Speaking to guest Olivia Ponton on her 'High Low with EmRata' podcast, she said: "They're like, 'You're special. You've done it.'"

"Then (they) slowly get emasculated, and they don't know what to do with those feelings, and they resent you, and then they start to tear you down. And then you're just back to square one."

The 31-year-old beauty - who has 21-month-old son Sylvester with her estranged husband - branded the situation "f\*\*\*\*\* up and unfair" and can "understand dating women" instead. She said: "There might be competition a but it doesn't feel like somebody's taking something away from someone else. Weirdly with heteronormative relationships, I feel like that happens." The strength and the power is associated with the masculine, and once the woman has that, the man doesn't know what else he has.

## Pracheen Kala Kendra organises ballet dance Bharat Amrit manthan

**U**nder the joint aegis of Pracheen Kala Kendra and Sangeet Natak Akademi, Delhi, a beautiful dance-drama Bharat Amrit Manthan was organized, which is a humble effort in the Mahayagya called Amrit Mahotsav of our worthy Prime Minister. This dance drama was presented by the young and talented students of Pracheen Kala Kendra and this dance drama was directed and conceptualized by eminent kathak exponent Dr. Samira Koser.

The program was organized at Dr.MS Randhawa auditorium of Punjab Kala Bhavan from 6:30 pm. In this program Mr. Sanjay Tandon, Member of National BJP Councilor graced the occasion as the chief guest and Mr. Saurabh Joshi, Councillor Municipal



Corporation Chandigarh as Guest of Honour: Registrar of the kendra Dr. Shobha Koser

Secretary Mr. Sajal Koser were also present in the program. The program was started with invocato-

ry piece vandana of Bharat Mata, in which Mother India's worship was done through Kathak

dance. After that, a beautiful bhav paksh based piece was presented. Dace was a humble effort to present India's current situations, and problems of today's society and also a request to save India's glorious history and culture. In this dance drama, women's respect, Guru's respect, the soldiers who gave their lives for the country and the youth who are not on right path, this is the main objective of this dance drama, which is striving for the creation of a new India and communicate a message to generate new strength in all.

A glimpse of Dr. Samira's creative ideas was seen in this dance drama which was highly appreciated by the audience. Dr. Sameera Koser and her group were felicitated at the end of the programme.

## 'Junooniyatt' captures journey of three aspiring and passionate singers



**T**hey say music is the universal language of mankind, its magic is beyond words. Celebrating the sheer power of music and love, COLORS' upcoming fiction show 'Junooniyatt' captures the journey of three aspiring and pas-

sionate singers. Based in Punjab, the show will star Ankit Gupta, Gautam Singh Vig and Neha Rana in the lead roles of Jahaan, Jordan and Elahi respectively. Produced by Sargun Mehta and Ravi Dubey's Dreamiyata Entertainment, the show outlines the deep connection of music in Punjab and the pool of talent that the state offers. Junooniyatt is the tale of Elahi, Jahaan and Jordan, who like their styles of music are different from each other and as they meet their pursuit of the art takes an eventful turn. Will music heal their wounds and wipe out their flaws? What happens when their dreams clash?

## Suneeta Rao shares how she lost a role to Archana Puran Singh in 'Jalwa'

**P**op singer Suneeta Rao, who is famous for her track 'Paree Hoon Main', 'Ab Ke Baras', 'Vaada Karo', 'Talaash', and many more, revealed about her love for acting and how she couldn't be part of the 1987 film 'Jalwa'.

She shared: "I was bitten by the acting bug because I just loved acting ever since I was a teenager. I was around 15-16 years old when I gave my first screen test but unfortunately, I lost the role to none other than Archana ji. I don't know if Archana ji remembers, it was for 'Jalwa'. I was not a model but I thoroughly enjoyed the process."

After hearing this, Archana responded: "There were a lot of models who had auditioned for the role but little did I know that Suneeta was also one of them."

Suneeta is coming along with Shabbir Kumar, Altaf Raja, and Shweta Shetty as a celebrity guest on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'.

'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.



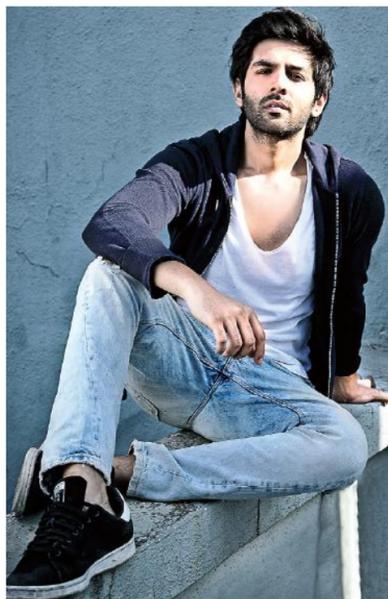
## Kartik Aaryan reveals his 2023 New Year resolution: More and more travel

**B**ollywood actor Kartik Aaryan has revealed his 2023 resolution - a lot of travelling. Kartik took to Instagram, where he shared a slew of pictures from all the travels he has done. "More and More Travel... that's my 2023 resolution," he captioned the image. As soon as the actor dropped his pictures, his fans and friends took to the comment section. Filmmaker Kabir Khan wrote: "Nothing better than travel."

A fan wrote: "The heartthrob of Bollywood, winning hearts of fans with his humbleness on the streets of London. Your faneptions from London will be always the most emotional and special one!"

In 2022, Kartik delivered two blockbusters - one horror comedy 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', which raked in Rs 200 crores, and 'Freddy' which was widely appreciated after its release on OTT.

He is currently busy shooting for 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' with Kiara Advani. Kartik will also be seen in 'Shehzada', which also stars Kriti Sanon. He has 'Captain India' and Kabir Khan's yet-untitled next.



## Karan, Gashmeer and Reem roped in for 'Ishq Mein Ghayal'

**T**he allure of forbidden love knows no boundaries nor reason. Can there be a happy ending for a heartfelt love story between werewolves and human being? COLORS 'Ishq Mein Ghayal' is one such story that revolves around a courageous young girl Esha (played by Reem Sameer Shaikh) who shares a strong connection with two brothers; Veer (played by Karan Kundrra) and Armaan (played by Gashmeer Mahajani). The two brothers happen to be werewolves and Esha is a human who gets on an arduous journey of love and heartbreak. Is the world ready to witness this one-



of-a-kind love saga despite its hurdles? Flavoured with intense love, dilemmas, and danger, the romantic fantasy drama is all set to showcase a unique love triangle in the mystical town of Landsdale. Produced by Beyond Dreams, 'Ishq Mein Ghayal' will air soon only on COLORS.

## &pictures brings to you your favorite blockbuster films!

**E**ntertainment, Entertainment! &pictures begins this year on a mazedaar note, as it is set to bring to audiences blockbuster films packed with adrenaline pumping action and comedy. Taking your daily dose of entertainment a notch higher &pictures is bringing this new fun-filled year with swag, action, masti and most importantly their favourite stars. Our martial arts ka king, Vidyut Jammwal is here to set the screen on fire this Republic Day, with the World television premier of his hit film, Khuda Hafiz 2. Audiences are in for a treat as they also get to witness punch lines and seeti-maar action, with the channel premiere of Tiger Shroff's, Heropanti 2 on 14th January, 2023 and guess what?, Its not over yet! Dialogue-baazi aur blockbuster filmo ka pitara lekar, aa raha hai &pictures ka '&pictures Super League' with a fully loaded line-up this new year. &pictures is here to bring to you the ultimate and effortless action hero, Vidyut



Jammwal in the World television premiere of high-octane action thriller, Khuda Hafiz 2- Chapter 2 - Agni Pariksha, this Republic Day. This one-man army has always given us goosebumps with his breathtaking stunts, flexibility and

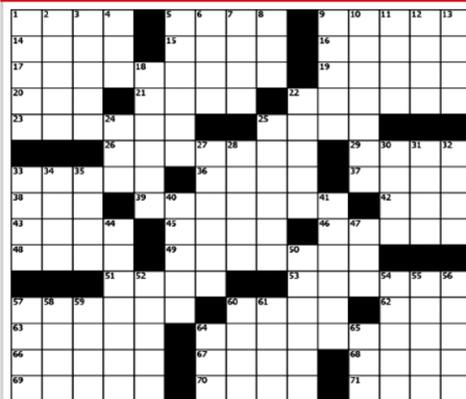
effortless charm. Raising the bar with his action, this master of martial arts is set to sweep us off our feet and take us on an entertaining journey with Khuda Hafiz: 2, on 26th January at 8pm. Fan's are in for more entertainment and masti as &pictures brings to audiences Heropanti unlimited this January!

Witness, Tiger Shroff ka Seetimaar action and swag, as &pictures brings to viewers the channel premiere of Heropanti 2, at 8pm on 14th January. Packed with action and thrills, this hero with no bones is here to set chills down your spine and entertain you to the fullest.

Expect the best and more, as &pictures Super League is ready to amp up the entertainment quotient for the audiences with a plethora of smashing hit films. From Simmba's mind ich blowing entertainment, to the pumping action with John Abraham and Allu Arjun, &pictures leaves no stone unturned in bringing the best-of-the best to you, every day at 8pm, starting this January 16th, 2023.

## CROSSWORD

525



### ACROSS

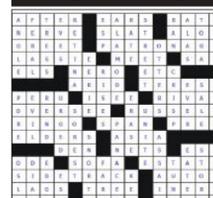
- Await judgment
- House additions
- Digging tool
- Chopped down
- Slang affirmative
- Town's announcer
- Deep respect
- Cowboy show
- Intense anger
- Otherwise
- Diner patrons
- Took long steps
- Identical
- Manors
- Female
- Mushroom "seed"
- Countryside road
- Famous canal
- Police officer
- Beasts
- Dancer \_\_\_\_\_ Miller
- Actor \_\_\_\_\_ Baldwin

- Spur on
- Owned apartment
- Not any
- Motorcycle adjunct
- Darn it!
- Brunch dish
- Rock band \_\_\_\_\_ Dan
- Complain
- WSW's opposite
- Reef material
- Block off
- Start of a Dickens title (2 wds.)
- Tibet's continent
- Stratford-on-\_\_\_\_\_
- Sloppy
- Negotiate
- Church benches

### DOWN

- Eiffel Tower locale
- Put forth
- At no time
- President after HST
- Shoelace hole
- Telescope part
- Shoe fastener
- That female
- Beat it!
- Mentor's student
- Staff member
- Gentle creature
- Greek Cupid
- What Moses parted (2 wds.)
- Artist's prop
- \_\_\_\_\_ the ramparts...."
- Legislative body
- Excuses
- Made docile
- OPEC member
- Watermelon discard
- Carson's successor
- Skim over
- Marco \_\_\_\_\_
- Honest
- Unpleasant
- Large shrimp
- Breakfast foods
- Raw material
- Ranch enclosure
- Bowling lane
- Depart
- Bestow
- Young people
- Fraudulent scheme
- Lug
- Notable periods
- Valise
- Opera highlight
- Wicked and gown

### SOLUTION 524



## Late strikes boost NZ as Pakistan chase 319 on final day



New Zealand's captain Tim Southee (3R) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Pakistan's Abdullah Shafique (not pictured).

**Karachi, Jan 05:**

Some enterprising batting after tea, a late declaration from Tim Southee, and two Pakistan wickets in the final ten minutes of the fourth day gave New Zealand a massive advantage going into day five. On the last day of the deadlocked Test series, New Zealand will need eight wickets to win while

Pakistan need to either score 319 - a record target on Pakistan grounds - or survive a maximum of 90 overs. New Zealand won two of the three sessions, starting off by dismissing Pakistan's overnight No. 11 inside the first over to take a 41-run lead. After that, Tom Latham (62), Kane Williamson (41), Tom Blundell (74) and Michael Bracewell (74\*)

made useful batting contributions to take their innings forward. The way Blundell and Bracewell batted in the third session would've deflated Pakistan, however. Pakistan took three top-order wickets in quick succession after lunch to dream of possibly chasing a lower target, but the Blundell-Bracewell duo put on 120 for the fifth

wicket. That helped New Zealand eventually declare on 277 for 5 and set a target of 319. Then, Pakistan, left with three overs to bat before stumps, lived their worst-case scenario. Abdullah Shafique was bowled by Southee for a duck and Mir Hamza also went for zero courtesy an Ish Sodhi ripper. Pakistan ended the day at 0 for 2.

## Patnaik announces Rs 1 crore for each player if India wins Hockey World Cup



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during his interaction with Indian men's hockey team, ahead of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023, at Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Thursday, Jan. 5.

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 05 (PTI):**

Ahead of the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday announced that each player of the Indian hockey team will get Rs 1 crore if they win the world cup. Patnaik, who visited Rourkela also inaugurated the World Cup Village at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex

in Rourkela. The World Cup Village has been developed within a record nine months and flaunts 225 rooms with all amenities befitting the stature of the Hockey World Cup. The World Cup Village will house the teams and officials of the upcoming Hockey World Cup. On this occasion, Chief Minister interacted with the National Men's Hockey Team who are ac-

commodated at the World Cup Village. "Each player of Team India will be rewarded with Rs 1 crore, if our country wins World Cup. I wish the very best to Team India and hope they will emerge champions," Patnaik said. Players praised the Odisha government and thanked the chief minister for developing a holistic ecosystem for hockey for the players of the na-

tion. The world cup village along with the hockey practice centre and the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium will offer a holistic environment for the national and international players for the marquee tournament. Taj Group has been roped in by Hockey India to offer impeccable service and hospitality that reflects the culture of Odisha.

## Green rubbishes rumours about his IPL unavailability



**Sydney, Jan 05 (PTI):**

Young Australian all-rounder Cameron Green is puzzled by rumours that he will not be able to bowl in the early part of the Indian Premier League (IPL) this year, saying he will be "100 per cent available" to bat and bowl for Mumbai Indians. Reports have circulated that Green, who suffered a broken finger after being hit by an Anrich Nortje bouncer during the second Test against South Africa, can only bowl in IPL 2023 after April. But the 23-year-old, bought by the most successful IPL franchise for Rs 17.50 crore --

the second-most costliest player in the history of IPL auction -- rubbished the rumours on Thursday, saying he doesn't know how and where the news originated. "No, that's not correct," Green was quoted as saying by SEN. "I've heard about this for quite a while now, I think. I don't know where it's come from. I've heard that I'm 100 per cent available for both skill sets in the IPL at the start, so yeah, I'm not too sure where that's kind of come from," added Green. Green and pace bowler Mitchell Starc are both missing the third and final Test against South Africa, currently underway at the Sydney Cricket Ground, due to finger injuries. The all-rounder, after retiring on day two of the Boxing Day Test following the injury, returned the next day to complete his half-century. Australia won the second Test to take a 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

## Venus Williams falls to Zhu Lin in marathon Auckland match

**Auckland, Jan 05 (AP):**

Venus Williams blew a 5-3 last-set lead in a match which stretched over nearly seven hours because of rain in losing to Zhu Lin of China 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 at the ASB Classic on Thursday. The 42-year-old Williams fought through every moment of the second-round match which began after noon and ended near 7 p.m., which began outdoors and ended indoors, and which contained 13 service breaks before finally tipping in favour of Zhu in the last few games. Seven-time Grand Slam champion Williams, starting her 30th year on the WTA Tour, won her first tour match in nearly two years when she beat Katie Volynets on Monday in the first round of the Auckland tournament. She played only four matches in 2022 and was hoping to progress to the second round of a tourna-



ment for the first time since 2019. Williams had the upper hand early when she took out a first set which included five service breaks in 43 minutes. She was 2-1 down when the first rain break of more than an hour occurred but returned to break Zhu's serve twice and take the

set. Zhu led 4-2 in the second set when the rain returned and, unrelenting, forced the players indoors onto a court without spectators. Zhu held serve for 5-2 then broke Williams again to take the set and level the match. Williams broke first for 2-1 in the third set and extended that

advantage to 5-3, coming within reach of a quarter-final spot. But Zhu broke back, held serve and broke Williams again to advance. Williams left the court after her sixth appearance in Auckland to no applause but also to no suggestion her career is nearer to an end.

## Asia Cup in September but itinerary and venue not announced

**New Delhi, Jan 05 (PTI):**

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Thursday said that the Asia Cup, to be played in 50-over format, will be held in September this year, though the itinerary and the host country have not been announced yet. Pakistan is the original host of the Asia Cup this year but the BCCI is not keen on playing there owing to political tension between the two countries. The then Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja had opposed the BCCI's stand and even threatened boycott of the 50-over World Cup in India. But following a change of guard in the PCB, with Raja being replaced by Najam Sethi, there could be some positive development. The Asia Cup 2023 will be a six-team affair involving India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and a qualifier team. Sri

Lanka are the defending Asia Cup champions in the UAE after they beat Pakistan in the final. The tournament was played in T20 format because of the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in Australia. With India set to host the ODI World Cup later this year and the focus of all the participating teams being on the 50-over format, this year's Asia Cup will be held in that format. BCCI secretary and ACC president Jay Shah, while releasing the calendar for the next two years said the schedule "signals our unparalleled efforts and passion to take this game to new heights. With cricketers across countries gearing up for spectacular performances, it promises to be a good time for cricket." A total of 145 ODI and T20I matches will be played during the two-year cycle (between 2023-2024) announced by ACC. There will be 75 games in 2023 and 70 games in 2024.

## Khawaja and Smith hit milestones at SCG

**Sydney, Jan 05 (AP):**

Usman Khawaja made his highest Test score, Steve Smith scored a milestone century and Australia reached a commanding 475-4 when rain forced an early end to the second day of the third and final Test against South Africa. Khawaja made an unbeaten 195 off 368 balls, with 19 boundaries and a six, and had earlier Thursday shared an epic 209-run partnership with Steve Smith, who made his 30th Test century and also became Australia's fourth-highest run scorer in tests in front of his home Sydney Cricket Ground fans. Marnus Labuschagne (79) and Travis Head (70) both scored half-centuries as Australia dominated a placid South Africa attack and placed themselves in a strong position to still force a result in a game that has had frequent bad light and rain delays. Khawaja raised his third consecutive SCG



Australia's Usman Khawaja (R) celebrates with Steve Smith after reaching his century.

highest test score of 174 against New Zealand at Brisbane in 2015 to close in on his maiden double-century. Khawaja was given a life on 119 when he offered a sharp shin-height chance which Anrich Nortje missed at gully after losing sight of the ball. Earlier, Smith made 104 to join former Australia opening batter Matt Hayden on 30 test centuries. Only Ricky Ponting (41) and Steve Waugh (32) have more among Australian men's test players. It was Smith's fourth century at his home ground and came from 190 balls, with 11 boundaries and two sixes with the former captain receiving a prolonged standing ovation from the 27,663 SCG crowd. Next over Smith chipped a simple return catch to Keshav Maharaj (1-108) in what was the only blemish in an otherwise flawless four-hour innings.

## Djokovic, Shapovalov to meet in Adelaide quarterfinals



**Adelaide, Jan 05 (AP):**

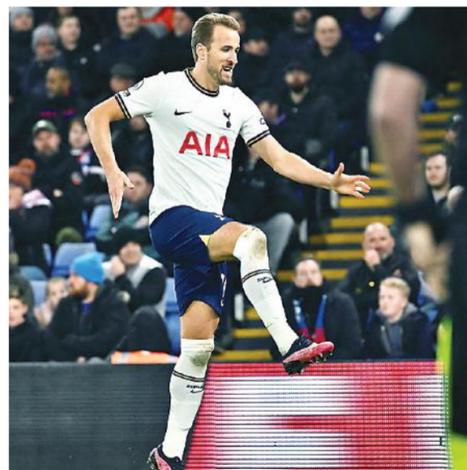
Top-seeded Novak Djokovic has reached the quarterfinals of the Adelaide International where he will face Denis Shapovalov. Djokovic defeated Quentin Halys 7-6 (3) 7-6 (5) on Thursday, and Canadian Shapovalov beat Roman Safiullin 6-4, 6-3 to advance. Djokovic and other top players are using this event as a warm-up for the Australian Open beginning Jan. 16. Djokovic missed the Australian Open last year because he was unvaccinated. He's

been allowed to enter this year as COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed. Djokovic lauded Halys' play in a very tight match. "It was a great performance from my opponent today," Djokovic said. "I want to congratulate him for great quality tennis and a great fight today. Tough luck, but he played like a top-10 player." Djokovic said he was still trying to get a feel for his game. "Two tiebreaks were probably the most realistic score of today's match and I'm just glad to overcome the tough challenge," Djokovic said.

## Kane bounces back from World Cup woe with two more goals

**London, Jan 05 (AP):**

With two classic centre forward's finishes, Harry Kane showed he is not suffering any lasting effects from his World Cup disappointment with England. It's now three goals in three Premier League games for Tottenham since returning from Qatar after his double in a 4-0 win over Crystal Palace late on Wednesday. Kane has had to shoulder the burden of missing a late penalty in England's 2-1 loss to France in the quarter-finals on December 10. Back with Tottenham, he scored in the 2-2 draw with Brentford on the first day of the league's resumption and added two more against Palace -- a header at the back post and an emphatic low finish into the bottom corner. It was a reminder, not that it was really needed, of Kane's opportunism in front of goal and brought some respite for his man-



ager, Antonio Conte, who was pessimistic about his team's top-four chances after a 2-0 loss to Aston Villa on Sunday. The win over Palace moved fifth-place Tottenham five points clear of sixth-place Liverpool, and two points behind both Newcastle

and Manchester United, who are in third and fourth, respectively. United has a game in hand. Matt Doherty and Son Heung-min also scored at Selhurst Park, with all goals coming in the space of 24 minutes in the second half.

## Construction work in city will release 230 million tonnes of CO2: IIT-M

Chennai, Jan 05 (PTI):

Chennai could cumulatively emit 231.9 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) by year 2040 due to construction and operation of buildings alone owing to rapid urbanisation, according to researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M).

They said rapid urbanisation may increase built stock across the country. The construction industry is estimated to account for around a quarter of total CO2 emissions. This is due to the emissions arising out of production of raw material such as cement and steel, their transporta-

tion to construction sites, energy used during construction and most importantly, the energy used during operation of buildings, said the institute.

Switching to renewable sources of energy for operational requirements of buildings would reduce emissions from Chennai, the researchers said in a study conducted by the centre for technologies for low carbon and lean construction, IIT-Madras, and the Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS), IIT-Madras.

Explaining about the significance of the study, professor Ashwin Mahalingam, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-

Madras, said, "In order to achieve our emissions targets, we need to benchmark what our business as usual' emissions are likely to be in future and work backwards. This study represents a step in trying to quantitatively address this problem." The quantitative study to address the issue of increasing CO2 emissions due to construction of buildings was undertaken in three phases. Geo-spatial land models developed by The Nature Conservancy - a global environmental non-profit organisation - was used to simulate how Chennai would look in 2040. This took into account past trends as well as future

constraints. The model developed by researchers showed an increase in urban built-up area accompanied by a decrease in water and wetlands over a period between 2019 and 2040.

Life-cycle analysis of construction activities estimated the CO2 released during demolition, construction (as a result of transportation of materials and construction activities), and operation of buildings. "The calculation showed that Chennai will cumulatively emit 231 million tonnes of CO2 due to energy consumed by buildings during construction and operations," a release said.

## AIR SHOW



Suryakiran Aerobatic Team of IAF performs during the 18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts & Guides, Rajasthan's Pali, Thursday.

## 'Young men not finding brides because of unemployment'

Pune, Jan 05 (PTI):

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar has criticised the BJP governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra over unemployment, saying it is creating social issues as young men of marriageable age are not finding brides.

Speaking before flagging off the NCP's 'Jan Jagar Yatra' campaign here on Wednesday, Pawar said a rift is being created between communities and an attempt is being made to divert the attention from real issues like inflation and unemployment.

"It is possible to address the issue of hunger in the country as our farmers have increased the pro-



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar felicitated by Senior Scientist Raghunath Mashelkar commemorating his 82nd birthday, at a function in Satara.

duction, but the people in power are not ready to give due remuneration to farmers, instead they are safeguarding the interests

of middlemen and pushing the common people into the gorge of inflation," the former Union agriculture minister

claimed. Today's youth are educated and they have the right to demand jobs, he said. Industries are going out of

Maharashtra, no encouragement is being given to the existing industries and no opportunities are being given to set up new businesses which is leading to increase in unemployment, Pawar said.

"Once while travelling I came across 15 to 20 men in the age group 25 to 30 sitting idle in a public square in a village. I asked them what did they do. Some said they are graduates, some said they are post-graduates.

When I asked if they were married, everyone responded in the negative," the NCP chief said.

Pawar said when he asked them the reason, they said no one was ready to give them brides as they had no jobs.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

## Indore's famous street food hubs gear up

To offer mouth-watering snacks to guests

Indore, Jan 05 (PTI):

Indore's famous street food vendors are gearing up to offer their mouth-watering snacks to foreign guests during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention to be held here from January 8 to 10.

Nearly 3,000 Non-Resident Indians are expected to attend the three-day programme.

Sarafa Chowpatty here, known as a paradise for 'chaat' lovers, has been accorded the status of "clean street food hub" by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The street food hub, located near the palace of the former Holkar rulers, bustles every night after jewellery shops in the area call it a day.

The Chowpatty operators have made preparations to whip up traditional dishes for those taking part in the high-profile gathering, representatives of their associations said on Thursday.

Ram Gupta, president of the Night Sarafa Chowpatty Association, told PTI that the street food market comprising 108 shops is being decorated with attractive lighting for the foreign guests visiting Indore,

which has consistently bagged the title of India's cleanest city.

"We will serve traditional delicacies like 'bhutta ka kees', peas and green gram 'kachori' and garadu (a yam-based savoury) free of cost to the foreign guests. We want the guests to carry with them a unique experience of taste," he said.

Gunjan Sharma, president of the association of shops at '56 Dukaan', another popular street food market here, said they have decorated the place with colourful flags and installed welcome gates for the guests coming from across the world.

## Govt approves Rs 12,882 crore for continuation of development schemes

New Delhi, Jan 05 (PTI):

The Centre has approved the continuation of schemes of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) with an outlay of Rs 12,882 crore for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26). Addressing a press conference here, Minister for DoNER G Kishan Reddy said the decision to extend the approved schemes for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

This would enable better planning for the implementation of the schemes in terms of project selection and front-loading of projects during the scheme period, he said. Reddy

said efforts will be made to conclude the maximum number of projects by 2025-26 so that there are minimum committed liabilities beyond that year. The minister said based on the Expenditure Finance Committee's (EFC) recommendations, the outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme (NESIDS) will be Rs 8,139.5 crore, including the committed liabilities of the ongoing projects. The outlay for the "Schemes of NEC" will be Rs 3,202.7 crore, including the committed liabilities of the ongoing projects, the outlay for special packages for the Bodoland Territorial Council, the Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHATC) and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAATC) in Assam is Rs 1,540 crore, including the committed liabilities of

### In N-E

the ongoing projects. The NESIDS, a central sector scheme with 100 per cent central funding, has been restructured having two components - NESIDS (Roads) and NESIDS (other than road infrastructure). Reddy said the development of the northeast is a major priority for the Centre, while pointing out that the prime minister has visited the region more than 50 times and Union ministers have visited it more than 400 times in the last eight years. The northeast was previously known for unrest, bombings, bandhs etc. but in the last eight years, peace has been established in the region under Modi's leadership, he said. The minister said the objectives of the schemes of the MDoNER is

to supplement the efforts of the different central ministries and departments on one hand and to address the needs of the northeastern states on the other, for uncovered development and welfare activities.

The Ministry of DoNER schemes help provide gap-filling support to the eight states of the region in accordance with their felt needs by taking up projects, such as those for developing infrastructure to mitigate connectivity and social sector deficits and enhancing livelihood and employment opportunities in the region, he said. The five pillars of the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" for a self-reliant India - economy, infrastructure, system, vibrant demography and demand - will get a push through the schemes, Reddy added.

## 'Use of modern technology necessary for police'



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai at the inauguration of Trainee Hostels and Family Residential Buildings at CTC, ITBP, in Rajasthan.

Jaipur, Jan 05 (PTI):

Union Minister Nityanand Rai on Thursday said the use of modern technology has become necessary for the police with the changing nature of crime and stressed that it is the need of the hour to transform it into a smart force.

Rai also said that investigation and prosecution are the backbone of the rule of law.

"Therefore, it is necessary to give more focus on investigation and prosecu-

tion to establish the rule of law," the Union minister of state for home said while addressing the third National Conference of Heads of Investigative Agencies here.

Rai said that state-of-the-art technology and mutual coordination are very important to empower the police.

"At present, with the changing nature of crime, the use of the latest techniques has become necessary for the police," he said. The minister said that police forces are the

watchdog of the peace and harmony of the nation and in such a situation, it is the need of the hour to strengthen the police intellectually, physically and organizationally and transform it into a smart force.

He said that the Centre is constantly making efforts to modernize the police.

"The government has approved the continuation of the umbrella scheme of more than Rs 26,000 crore for the years 2021 to 2026 to modernize the police forces," he added.

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